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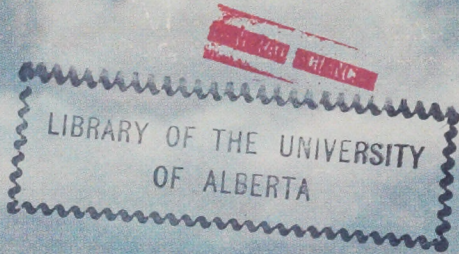
Country GUIDE

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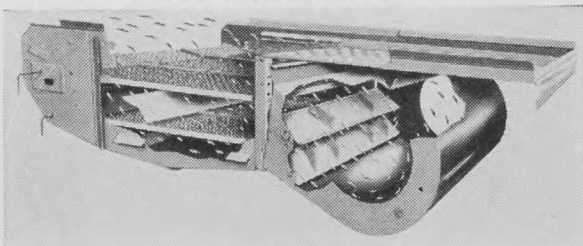
Why more farmers buy Massey-Harris combines than any other make

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M-H 80 and 90 Specials with 61 sealed bearings ready in 6 minutes.

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Toronto, Canada LIMITED



The Hereford in center background did not deliberately pose with the three generations of the Coffeys, Carlyle, Saskatchewan. (See story, page 65).

THE *Country* GUIDE

From Cover to Cover

JUNE, 1955

Cover—by Eva Luoma

Prairie Weather—by Dr. Irving P. Krick and Staff	5
Under the Peace Tower—by Hugh Boyd	14
Editorials	70

ARTICLES

How Necessary Is Summerfallow?—by R. A. Hedlin	7
Vaccines—Dead or Alive—by C. V. Faulknor	8
Benson Speaks To Kansans—by H. S. Fry	9
Fence Corners—by Gilbert Hill	10
Can Swathing Be Side-Stepped?—by Ralph Hedlin	11
Rancher North of 53—by Lyn Harrington	13
Science and the Farm	4
Farm Storage in Mexico—by Emil Zubryn	40
2,000-Bird Flock	41
Ring-String Chickens—by Winifred R. Hardy	43
Struggle of the Bees	43
Try Giving Them Away—by Ina Bruns	44
Nature in the Raw—by Maud Strike	44
Year-Round Steer Feeding	54
Oyster Farmers Really Like Oysters	54
Same Range—More Cattle	65
Wheat . . . Headache for Uncle Sam	66
Early Haying for Dairy Farming	66
Saskatchewan's Pocket Gophers—by H. H. Pittman	67
Biggest Herd of Galloways	68

FICTION

The Typewriter—by John Patrick Gillese	12
--	----

FARM

News of Agriculture	16	Poultry	31
Get It at a Glance	19	Farm Young People	34
Livestock	20	What's New	35
Field	25	Workshop	36
Horticulture	28		

HOME

The Countrywoman—by Amy J. Roe	55
Choice in Freezers—by Lillian Vigrass	56
Choosing the Dressing	58
Come for Dessert	59
Needlework	60
Ammonia Lightens Work—by D. England	62
Handy and Useful—by Louise Price Bell	62
Fashions in the Sun (Patterns)	63
The Country Boy and Girl	69
Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors—No. 40—by Clarence Tillenius	69

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Noah's Ark

Not Noah, but a Danish maiden lady, presides over this modern Noah's Ark, and its varied inmates

by KAJ V. CARLSEN

OLD Mr. Noah would be happy if he could look down from Heaven to a small Danish "Mount Ararat," where a sweet, elderly lady, Miss Esther Bentzen, has found a refuge from the "sin-flood" of life, together with an assortment of not less than 200 animals of different kinds. She lives there entirely alone, with two-legged and four-legged friends, who enjoy a life of comfort and well-being in a tiny, old villa which is aptly called "Noah's Ark."

Miss Bentzen devotes herself entirely to her animals, and she has given each one of them the name of some famous living or dead person. Her pets come to her confidently when she calls their names—whether it is a tiny mouse or a tame fox—just as though they were her children.

She has good connections with zoological gardens all over the world; and it happens quite often that one of these sends her a rare animal as an addition to her "family." This is a bit of luck for each addition, because all the inmates of Noah's Ark can be sure of a happy existence there, as long as they live. Indeed, they will become exalted individuals, because not only do they live on a tiny mountain a few miles from Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, but they enjoy perfect free-

dom and can roam at will all over the house. The atmosphere they create is, perhaps, not one of the best, but that is their affair, and Miss Bentzen's.

Miss Bentzen keeps her many charges inside the house at night, and rises at 3:00 a.m. to feed them. They are admired by many visitors, both children and adults, who come from all parts of Denmark to visit Noah's Ark and to see, among others, her tame fox, Don Pedro; her white rat, Alexander; the goat, Dante; the parrot, Molliere; the cub, De Gaulle; Madame Peron, the hen; and Socrates, the cat.

They rate a big Christmas party, too. Miss Bentzen celebrates Christmas all alone with her pets. She makes many preparations for the festive occasion, just as though they were children. Naturally, there must be a big Christmas tree, with all sorts of nice things on it, like smoked herrings and carrots—something for everyone. Because of danger of fire, there can not be any lighted candles.

Miss Bentzen has medals and honors from several countries. She has a medal given her by Marshal Foch at the time of World War I, as well as medals and honors from England and the United States. During the First World War she was at Verdun, where



Christmas is a festive occasion—with a tree, too. The little cub De Gaulle is very interested. Dante, the goat is ready for Christmas any time, especially if there is plenty to eat.



she gave aid, not only to many wounded soldiers, but also wounded and deserted horses and dogs. Later, when wounded soldiers passed through Denmark, she was active day and night in bringing them aid and comfort. One, a wounded Frenchman,

pinned his Medal of Honor on her bosom, and she has also a steel helmet given her by a dying Poilu at Verdun. Some day if her animals will allow her the necessary time, she would like to return to France and decorate the grave of the Unknown Soldier. V

Science and The Farm

Bit by bit, the map of knowledge is being filled in by the patient work of scientists

Industrial wastes from steel, coal, metal finishing, paper and food industries can now be used to make animal feeds and fertilizers. At present, according to C. F. Gurnham, Michigan State College, these wastes are polluting streams and the atmosphere. He told the American Institute of Chemical Engineers that relatively simple alterations of manufacturing procedures could be introduced to produce these products, which in many cases would more than pay for the salvage cost. V

A new fruit of the small-fruit group is now being tested for use in the northeastern United States. It is a cross between raspberries and blackberries and was developed because other berry hybrids, such as the loganberry, do not survive in that area. Two research workers at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York, found that a cross between the Erie blackberry and the Harlsham red raspberry combined the flavors of both. The berries vary both in size and shape, ripening over a two-week period in mid-July. The variety is not yet named. V

Antibiotics have already proved valuable in the control of diseases in both plants and animals, and for stimulating the growth of chickens, turkeys and other animals. Dr. Louis G. Nickell, recently told the 20th annual Chemurgic Conference that scientists are now seeking an antibiotic compound which would be able to increase or decrease the yield of plant products. Recently a Swiss scientist, Dr. Steinegger, showed that penicillin was able to increase both the growth and the alkaloid production of the Jamestown or Jimson weed, the alkaloids of which have been used in

the manufacture of sedatives. The next step forward was believed to be the use of antibiotics in the preservation of food. It has already been shown that they can increase the storage life of foods by preventing spoilage organisms from gaining a foothold. V

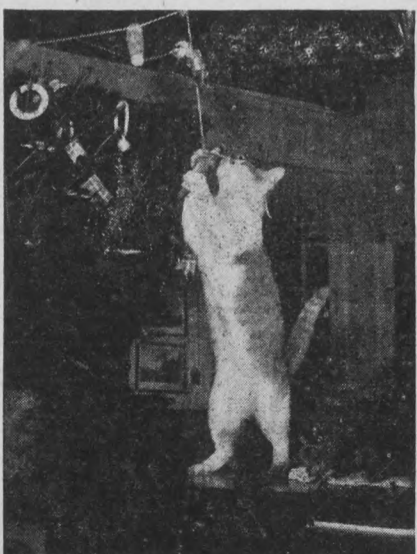
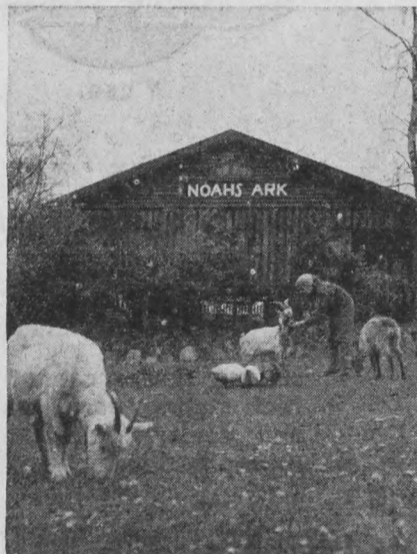
A new milk drink has been reported in the journal of the American Medical Association. It is non-fattening, but high in protein. It is, therefore, suitable for babies, old people, very fat people, and patients with heart, liver and kidney diseases. It is called Kralax and is made from skim milk. It is also low in salt content, lacks other minerals and vitamins, and is not intended to be used as a balanced food. Said to be very palatable, it can be served hot or cold, flavored with fruit flavors, or used as a base for puddings or soups. V

Plant disease organisms can change drastically and develop resistance to the chemicals used to control them. Scientists at the University of Wisconsin experimented in 1954 with the apple scab fungus. They found a mutant (changed form) of the scab organism that could tolerate 5,000 times as much antimycin A, an antibiotic, as could the unchanged form. V

The U.S. Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act now provides for safety limits in the amount of chemical residue that may remain on a food product ready for market. No amounts of such chemicals as calcium cyanide, mercury-containing compounds, or those containing nicotine, may remain on fruits or vegetables ready for market. These products have what is called a zero tolerance. DDT, however, is less harmful and has been given a tolerance of seven. V



This is Miss Esther Bentzen with Molliere the parrot, and a medal given her by Marshal Foch for services in World War I. Miss Bentzen and animal friends live in Noah's Ark. Right: The goats have just been put out to graze.



Socrates the cat couldn't wait until Christmas for his smoked herring. Visitors are numerous—both children and adults—and the pets like it.

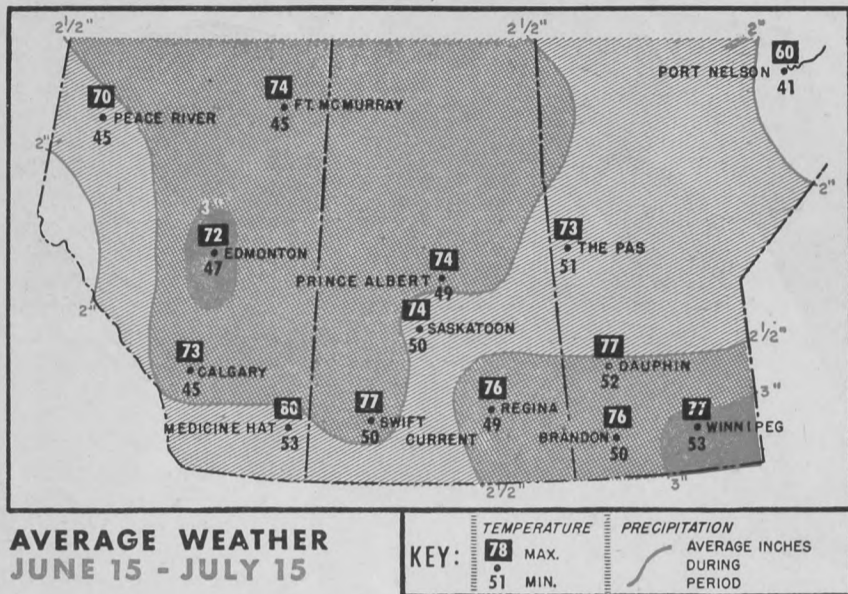


Prairie Weather

Prepared by DR. IRVING P. KRICK and Staff
for

THE *Country*
GUIDE

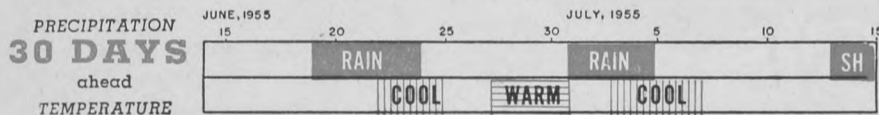
(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)



Alberta

Unseasonably wet weather and sub-normal temperatures will prevail in Alberta. Some warming is expected in late June when maximum temperatures will climb to 90 or above. For the period, in general, maximum temperatures will be in the upper 60's and low 70's. Occasional low readings in the upper 30's will be experienced in northern districts during the cool periods. Rainfall will exceed four

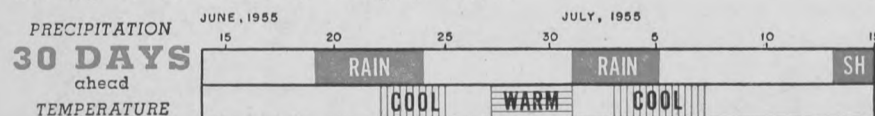
inches in the Edmonton-Red Deer area and will range from 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches elsewhere. Crops will be slow in development which will favor green peas in the south but expose spring-sown grains to rust. Forage crops will make good growth. Weeds will be especially troublesome, with wet fields making both cultivating and spraying difficult. Fall-sown grains will be headed by mid-July and yield prospects appear excellent. The season was generally backward last year. V



Saskatchewan

Cool, wet weather will monopolize the period. Some warming will occur in late June, boosting maximum temperatures into the 90's. Rain and lower temperatures will follow, however, with little drying until after the first several days of July. Rainfall will be above average, generally exceeding three inches in the province. Forage crops and fall-seeded grains will make lush growth, with advanced grains heading in the south by mid-July.

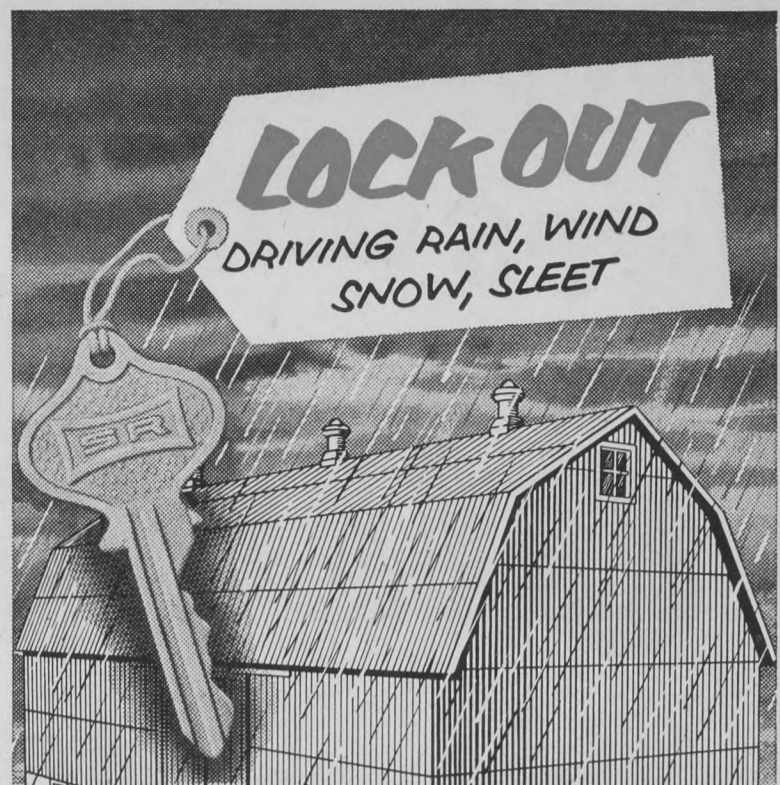
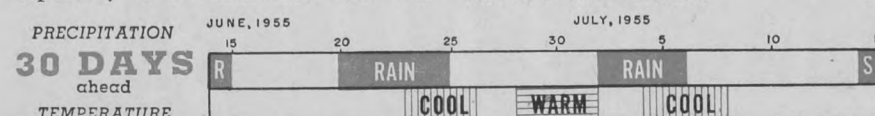
Spring grains and vegetable crops will be retarded due to late planting and extended cool weather, but conditions should be quite good. Wet soils will inhibit keeping summerfallows free of weeds. Heavy rains have occurred in southwest portions of the U.S. Winter Wheat Belt. A similar situation last year resulted in heavy infestations of rust which provided numerous spores, some of which found their way to Saskatchewan. Weather conditions will favor rust development in the province. V



Manitoba

Somewhat analogous to last year, relatively cool and wet weather will prevail in Manitoba between June 15 and July 15th. A warm spell, however, at the end of June and early July will witness maximum temperatures in the 90's in southern portions of the province. Otherwise, maximum temperatures will be in the low 70's and occasionally in the 60's during the indicated cool periods. Rainfall will be well above average with amounts exceeding four inches in many sections, especially in the southeast. Soils will

experience little drying until after the first week of July. Many crops will continue to be retarded in growth and development, particularly spring grains, corn, sugar beets and home garden crops. Winter wheat, fall rye, hay and pastures will make lush growth with some grains heading by mid-July. Weed growth will be quite troublesome. Growth from newly formed stools in southwestern U.S. Winter Wheat (due to excessive May rain) poses a rust threat to Manitoba wheat. This lush regrowth will be late in maturing and will be very susceptible to rust infestation. V



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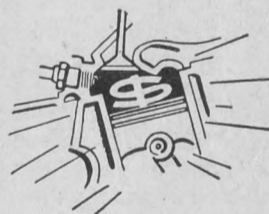
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Chevrolet's "Turbo-Fire" V8 makes use of General Motors' long experience in making unbeatable V8's for high-priced cars. That's why Chevrolet's V8 performance is unrivalled by comparable makes.



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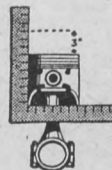
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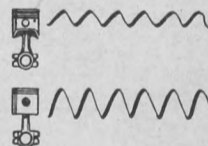


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How Necessary Is Summerfallow?

SUMMERFALLOW is getting out of hand. In 1911, fallow accounted for only 11 per cent of the 20.6 million acres of cultivated land in western Canada. By 1951, it accounted for 32.2 per cent of the 67 million acres then cultivated, or 21.6 million acres. This is equal to the total of all improved land in both Ontario and Quebec; and is more than twice as many acres as are devoted to cultivated hay in all of Canada.

This increase in fallow acreage is not restricted to the drier parts of the prairies. In 1911 Manitoba farmers fallowed 13.9 per cent of their cultivated land. In 1951 it reached 25.6 per cent, and by 1954 it was 30.9 per cent, or over three million acres.

Despite the cost and labor involved in fallowing, the benefits obtained from it have not been carefully evaluated. Most farmers fallow to increase yields—an objective usually obtained. The increase in yield from fallowing varies with moisture conditions, fertilizer use, crop residues returned, and length of time the land has been cultivated, but it is usually substantial. In a number of experiments carried out on farm fields in Manitoba during 1950-54, unfertilized wheat, oats and barley on stubble yielded only about 70 per cent as much as on fallow land.

Increased yields after fallowing are usually attributed to moisture conservation and weed control. It is now becoming apparent, under Manitoba conditions, at least, that these reasons are less important than the effect of fallow on soil fertility.

At the Swift Current Experimental Station, it has been shown that in southwestern Saskatchewan only a small proportion of the rainfall is conserved in fallow fields. Between harvest and spring an average of 2.2 inches of moisture is stored in the soil. If land is fallowed, only an additional 1.8 inches of moisture are conserved. In the more humid portions of the prairies, fallowing is little, if any, more effective as a moisture conservation measure. Therefore, unless serious droughts occur frequently, it is impossible to justify fallowing for moisture conservation alone.

Twenty or thirty years ago, fallowing was important as a means of controlling such weeds as sow thistle, Canada thistle, mustard and stinkweed—a job now usually done with chemicals. Wild oats is a most troublesome weed in Manitoba, but recommended control practices do not involve fallowing. Such weeds as couch grass are still best controlled by fallowing, but the acreage of fallow required for this purpose is not large.

FALLOWING has effects on soil fertility which are becoming increasingly important. This is illustrated by an experiment conducted at Winnipeg by the Soils Department, University of Manitoba, in which land broken in 1912 has been in a rotation of fallow, wheat, corn, barley, since 1920. During the years 1922-32 plots of unfertilized wheat yielded 33



Center oats strip (author standing), unfertilized, yielded 37.8 bu. per acre. Left strip (50 lbs. 16-20-0 per acre), 44.1 bu.; and right strip (owner H. E. Staples, Benito, Man., standing), 45 bu. per acre.

It leaves idle on the prairies each year as many cultivable acres as there are in Ontario and Quebec combined

by R. A. HEDLIN

bushels per acre, and unfertilized barley, 50.7 bushels. Calculated as pounds of grain per acre, the barley following corn yielded 22.9 per cent more than the wheat following fallow. During the years 1943-52, wheat yielded 34.6 bushels per acre and barley 31.8 bushels. Converting yields to pounds of grain per acre, barley yielded 26.5 per cent less than wheat. This change in relative yields has not been due to lack of moisture or weed infestation. The barley yields have declined as a result of nitrogen deficiency, and therefore could have been maintained by adding nitrogen fertilizers.

These results are in keeping with the experience of many Manitoba farmers. Grain yields are high on fallow land, but drop sharply the following year and remain low until the land has been fallowed again. Such results can be explained on the basis of the effects of summerfallow on soil fertility.

Plants use ammonia and nitrate forms of nitrogen. These can be obtained by adding fertilizers.

for nitrogen. The competition is temporary, because, in time, most of the straw rots, and nitrogen again becomes available to the crop. However, deficiency of nitrogen in the spring can seriously reduce yields. Where land has been fallowed, lack of nitrogen is not a problem, because straw has been rotted and a reserve of available nitrogen established.

WHAT is the solution? Experience of farmers in the Swan River Valley gives one answer. Where the grain-fallow system is followed, with no added nitrogen, one good crop is obtained after fallow, and yields are then low until the land has been fallowed again. However, where sweet clover is sown with the last grain crop before fallow, and worked into the land in the fallow year, it is possible to grow two, three, or even four, good grain crops between fallowing. Similar results have been obtained at Winnipeg, where from 1943-52 the yields of barley following corn have been increased from 31.8 bushels per acre, to 42.4 bushels, by plowing down red clover in the fallow year. In another experiment, during the same period, the yields of wheat on non-fallow land have been increased by seven bushels per acre by plowing down clover as a green manure in the fallow year.

Rotation of grain and hay crops also has a place in substituting for fallow. Grain yields following legumes, such as alfalfa and sweet clover, are greater than those obtained under the grain-fallow system on nitrogen deficient soils. The roots of these crops are high in nitrogen and, therefore, increase the nitrogen supply for two or three years. Where grass is grown alone, or comprises a large portion of the hay crop, the reverse is true. Grass roots, like cereal straws, are low in nitrogen and temporarily decrease the rate at which nitrogen is made available to plants. Nitrogen deficiency of grain results after grass is broken up, unless land is fallowed for a whole year, or nitrogen fertilizer is added.

A third solution to nitrogen deficiency, which does not involve fallowing, is the use of commercial nitrogen fertilizers. In Manitoba, ex-



[Guide photos] Sweet clover and timothy mixture on East Braintree, Man., farm of C. H. Feilburg (second from left), yielded 3,700 lbs. per acre after fertilizing (left) with 11-48-0 and potash, and 1,700 lbs. unfertilized.

(Please turn to page 46)

Vaccines—Dead or Alive

IF you're a poultryman in any one of several Canadian provinces, and you've just arranged to take delivery of 1,000 week-old chicks from your local hatchery you might find yourself involved in a conversation like this:

"You'd better get those birds vaccinated," the hatcheryman would probably warn, "If Newcastle disease or infectious bronchitis gets a start it'll run through your whole flock like a grass fire—could wipe out your whole business in a week."

"Why don't you people vaccinate them here?" you might ask. "If the hatcheries sold us immunized chicks in the first place, it would save a lot of trouble."

The hatcheryman would probably indicate that as far as he was concerned, it sounded like a good idea, but he'd have to say, "We're not allowed to do that. All vaccination has to be done on the producer's own place—that's the law as it now stands."

Like everyone else, you're getting a little fed up with the increasing number of rules and regulations, and you wonder just how much of it is really necessary. "They sure make it hard for a man to make a living," you grumble. "But if that's the way it is, there's not much we can do about it. You'd better let me have some of that vaccine, and I'll do the job myself."

"Can't do that either. You'll have to write to the Department of Agriculture about it—they'll give you permission to apply direct to the manufacturer."

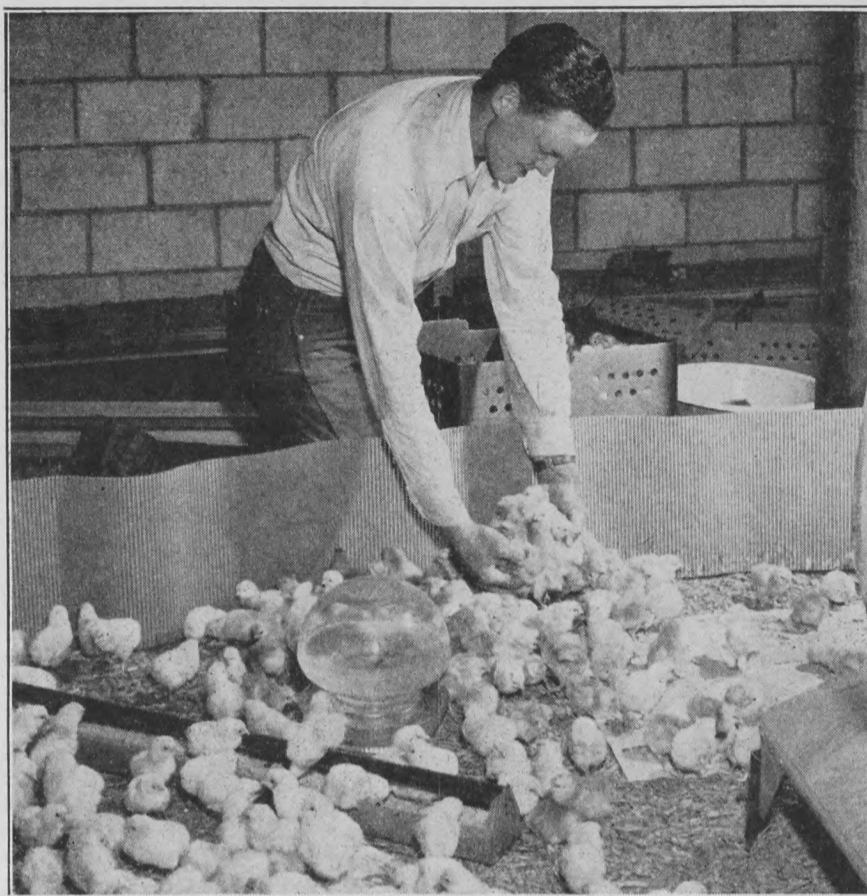
"Why that's crazy!" you say. "My brother-in-law in Saskatchewan gets his vaccine from the hatchery, and out in B.C., I hear that they can even buy the stuff in drug stores. I haven't time to be writing letters all over the country."

"Well, that's the way it is in this province," he tells you, but that doesn't make you feel any better.

"It's a bunch of stupid red tape if you ask me!" you explode. "It just doesn't make sense!"

"Must be some reason for it, I guess," the hatcheryman shrugs. But his answer doesn't satisfy you, and somehow you get the idea it doesn't satisfy him either.

WHAT are the reasons behind controls imposed on the manufacture and sale of vaccines? Before you can understand them you have to consider a few facts about vaccines themselves, especially the live-virus type. You also have to know something about the situation in each province, because certain regulations do vary from one province to another. In some cases there's a reason for that too, but in others, there's a hint of a little official "boondoggling" at the distribution end. Although care is needed in handling all vaccines, poultry vaccines are stressed in this article because there are disease problems inherent in the poultry industry, which the other livestock enterprises don't encounter. Chief among these, is the fact that breeding stock for the whole poultry industry is channelled



Chicks bearing no inherited immunity are hard hit by vaccination at an early age, especially if treated just before shipping.

Do we make it too hard for our livestock and poultry farmers to take advantage of new vaccines?

by C. V. FAULKNER

through a few units, namely the hatcheries.

Assuming that you're an efficient poultryman, and have taken all the necessary steps to ensure proper sanitation on your premises, you now seek further protection through flock vaccination. Science has been working for you in this, and has come up with vaccines that will give your birds immunity against several diseases, providing you give treatment in the proper manner and at the proper time. Depending on the disease, the product you use may be either a "dead" or "live" virus vaccine. As the names suggest, the former consists of dead germs, while the latter contains living strains of the disease it is supposed to combat. Unfortunately, in some of the most serious diseases, dead-virus vaccines give protection for only a short time. The live-virus types do a better job. Although the germs in this living vaccine are weakened, and therefore, won't start a serious outbreak of the disease, there are certain dangers attached to their production and use. It is these dangers that have led to such strict government control.

Live-culture vaccines should be used only where other types of immunizing agents have proved unsatisfactory. Treated birds, or animals, develop a mild attack of the disease from which they recover, and are then expected to be immune. But, because the vaccine contains the living organism, the treated individual often acts as a carrier, and may be able to

spread the disease for a limited period after infection. Too, vaccines of this type are perishable, and must be stored under refrigeration. They also lose their effectiveness rapidly, and have to be discarded. Most of the live virus vaccines are distributed in the dry form and put into solution before use; they lose potency fast at this stage and must be used quickly.

Another factor in the use of vaccines is that humans are susceptible to some of the diseases, and there's always the risk that inexperienced operators will fail to take necessary precautions. Apart from the dangers mentioned, there is also the chance that poultrymen will lose faith in a perfectly good vaccine if they happen to get a batch that hasn't been properly handled.

IN Canada, poultry vaccines are produced by the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories, at the University of Toronto. This enables the Federal Government to maintain a good measure of control over quality. Up to the present time, the types being sold in this country have been limited to the spray, intraocular, and intranasal types. The spray vaccine is the most widely used because it allows a large number of birds to be treated in one operation. Recently the Veterinary Director General authorized the importation of several new types from approved manufacturers in the United States. These are: fowl pox vaccine, fowl laryngotracheitis vaccine, infectious bronchitis and Newcastle disease intranasal vac-

cines, Newcastle disease vaccine B1 strain; and three drinking water vaccines, including a dead-virus vaccine for Newcastle disease, and a dead and live virus vaccine for infectious bronchitis. Ontario has already taken advantage of this. Just how soon the new types will be available in the other provinces depends a good deal on how deeply infected each government has become with that disease commonly known as red tape.

This situation is a result of federal government policy which allows provincial authorities to set up regulations controlling the use of vaccines within their borders. Different interpretations, conditions, and, one could add, pressures, in each province have resulted in some difference in the methods of distribution. For instance, in British Columbia, vaccines for the major poultry diseases can be obtained directly from veterinarians, registered pharmacists, and in some cases, the Poultry Branch of the B.C. Department of Agriculture. In Alberta, a poultryman can get it from his local practising veterinarian, who can order it (under permit) from approved manufacturers.

Said an Alberta agricultural official, "Veterinarians are trained in disease diagnosis, prevention, and control, and there is one practising within reasonable driving distance of every poultryman."

A hatcheryman put it another way when he observed, "Apparently Alberta has a strong veterinary association, and B.C. a strong pharmaceutical association."

Poultrymen in Manitoba, Ontario, and the Maritimes must either apply to their own provincial veterinarians or agricultural departments for the vaccine, or for permission to obtain supplies direct from the Connaught Laboratories. As far as the Maritimes are concerned, poultry diseases aren't a big factor there yet, so no large vaccination program has been necessary. Along with Manitoba, they have some justification for proceeding slowly in allowing wider distribution facilities, because they feel that they lack the inspection staff necessary to ensure that any new measures wouldn't be abused.

FOR some time, hatcherymen have been petitioning for the right to stock approved vaccines, and sell them directly to their customers. To date, Saskatchewan is the only province which allows this practice, and then only for one particular vaccine. Because of a widespread epidemic of infectious bronchitis there last year, the Department of Agriculture issued permits to hatcheries to sell bronchitis vaccine so as to get as wide a coverage as possible. Any Saskatchewan hatcheryman can apply for a permit to stock it, providing he abides by the following regulations: (1) vaccine may be used by poultrymen only on their own farms; (2) no vaccine may be used on the hatchery premises, or in any commercial brooder establishment operated by the hatchery; (3) the vaccine must be

(Please turn to page 49)

Benson Speaks To Kansans

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture hits hard at the disrupting influence of high, fixed price supports

by H. S. FRY

WHEAT, in Kansas, is the greatest single factor in the economy of the State. Kansas is about midway between Canada in the north and Mexico in the south, and her farmers get approximately a third of their total cash income from wheat. They produce chiefly hard red winter wheat and their crop is larger than that of any other state.

Some years ago the Kansas State College of Agriculture, the grain trade, the milling and baking industries, and the farmers of the State, joined in the formation of the Kansas Wheat Improvement Association, and once each year, a big rally and Field Day is held at some suitable center. This year was the twelfth such event, and it was held at Hutchinson, in the south central part of the State. Heavy rains, which were very badly needed all through South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas, came the day prior to the Field Day and made impracticable a visit to the field plots at the Kansas State College Experiment Substation, about five miles west of the city.

The Country Guide was on hand at Hutchinson, having arrived at Manhattan, the location of the State Agricultural College, about the time that a very destructive tornado was ripping apart the village of Udall, killing about 75 and injuring 200 others of its 750 people. Fortunately for the visitor to Manhattan, the tornado was raging 150 miles away, though only about 75 miles from Hutchinson.

Because of the rains the actual Field Day program began with a barbecue supper at the big Sports Arena. This was followed by the speaking program, which began at 6:45. We estimated the crowd at about 2,500 and gathered that many had been attracted by the prospect of hearing Ezra Taft Benson, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. On this point there was perfect unity between The Country Guide and the Kansas folk, because we were there primarily for the same reason.

Before Mr. Benson spoke we had gathered that despite the Wheat Improvement Association, the chief worry of those in the associated industries was the declining quality of Kansas wheat. It was estimated that from 25 to 35 per cent of U.S. wheat supplies are produced within 200 miles of Hutchinson. The president of the Association stated that Kansas is full of medium gluten (protein) varieties and that 75 per cent of the Kansas wheat acreage in 1954 was seeded to varieties which were not in production in 1944. Furthermore, of the 176 million bushels of wheat produced in the State last year, the government got slightly over half. In other words, the millers were not too keen about its quality; and the representative of the Millers National Federation estimated that the mills in

Kansas must have secured at least one-third of their total grind from other areas, in order to maintain quality.

Mr. Benson, who had received a standing tribute when he went to the platform, said he was there to talk about wheat—and he did. The following statement made during his address, contains his thesis: "A record-breaking surplus of wheat has resulted in stringent production controls, which prevent farmers from utilizing their full resources. This same surplus provides the government with its most perplexing problem in the field of farm price supports."

The remainder of this article will consist almost entirely of direct quotations or condensations of his remarks. (He made one notable statement which does not appear in the text of his address. This was to the effect that, regardless of politics, he would continue to urge what he felt was in the interests of agriculture and of the nation. For this he was loudly applauded.)

"ON July 1 of this year," he said, "our wheat carry-over is expected to reach an all time high of 1,030,000,000 bushels . . . an increase of 128 million bushels over a year earlier, despite acreage allotments and marketing quotas on 1954 wheat production."

"The government will own about one billion bushels of this carry-over. It will have invested in this wheat some \$2.6 billion. Storage costs alone will appropriate some \$200 million a year."

" . . . Wheat accounts for one-third of the government's total investment in all price support activities. More than half of CCC's (Commodity Credit Corporation) million-dollars-a-day total storage costs are for wheat."

" . . . It now appears that our wheat carry-over a year hence (July 1, 1956) will be in the neighborhood of 950 million bushels . . . While this would represent the first decline in several years, by far the greater part of the long pull toward a normal wheat carry-over would still lie ahead of us."

"Just two weeks ago I proclaimed a national wheat allotment of 55 million acres for 1956 as required by law. Farmers themselves will decide, at a referendum on June 25, whether or not marketing quotas shall be in effect for the 1956 crop . . . Were it not for the 55-million-acre provision in the law, the current supply situation would force a cut-back to 18.6 million acres under the formula set up in our basic agricultural legislation."

"Under the present law, defeat of marketing quotas would mean wheat price supports for the 1956 crop at 50 per cent of parity to co-operating producers. There would probably be



The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is a pleasing, forceful and convincing speaker, who faces an immensely difficult task with deep conviction.

little compliance with acreage allotments, however, with price support incentives at this level. On the other hand, approval of marketing quotas will mean a continuation of present production curbs, along with price support for the 1956 crop, at not less than the level to be announced.

" . . . The best estimate of the Department of Agriculture is that the total U.S. wheat crop this year will be around 830 million bushels—down 150 million bushels as a result of acreage controls and serious drought in some areas. Adding 1955 production to our carry-over it appears that wheat supplies for the 1955-56 crop year will total 1,860 million bushels . . . slightly below the total supply for a year earlier, but it is still large enough to take care of our foreseeable domestic and exports needs for more than two full years."

" . . . It now appears that we may export around 260 million bushels of wheat in the 1955-56 marketing year . . . an increase of about 10 million bushels over the current year, which, in turn, is some 33 million bushels above 1953-54 . . ."

"We are able to maintain current wheat exports only through subsidies, which have been averaging about 80 cents per bushel. During the 12 months ending March 31, this program cost approximately \$200 million, the greater part of the total representing direct subsidies on wheat moving through commercial channels."

"THE hard fact is that we are not meeting world wheat competition on a quality basis. We are in a buyers' market. World agriculture has not

only recovered from the devastation of war—it has moved on to new production heights. Exporting nations are competing vigorously for markets. The war-torn nations which welcomed donations of wheat of any quality a few years ago are back on their feet economically. They are spending their own money and are demanding good milling wheat."

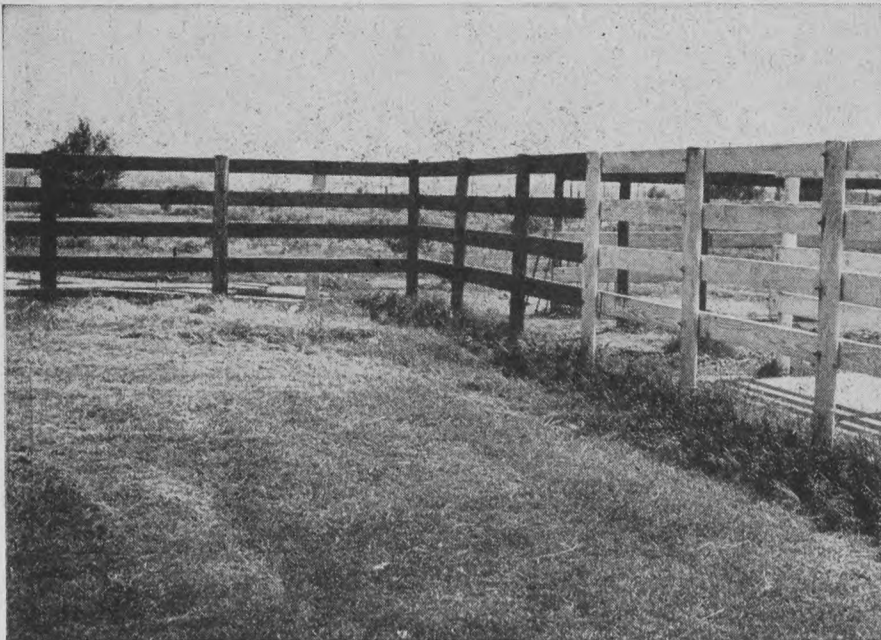
"We must either meet world wheat competition on a price, quality, and promotional basis, or content ourselves with a more limited market, which can be maintained only through continuing and perhaps increasingly larger government subsidies. I do not believe American wheat producers would willingly retreat to this secondary position."

Mr. Benson then mentioned three current developments within the Department of Agriculture, looking to the improvement of wheat quality. He said the Department is now favorably considering a schedule of loan rate discounts which would be applied against inferior wheat grown in 1956. Such a program might be announced well in advance of fall planting this year, in the hope that it would be a deterrent to the production of undesirable wheat varieties. A second point was that the Department is reviewing, in a comprehensive way, the official U.S. wheat grades. No major revision had taken place since 1934. A third development was a field test on a broad scale, of a new and improved method of testing the potential bread-baking quality of wheat, known as the sedimentation test. After several years

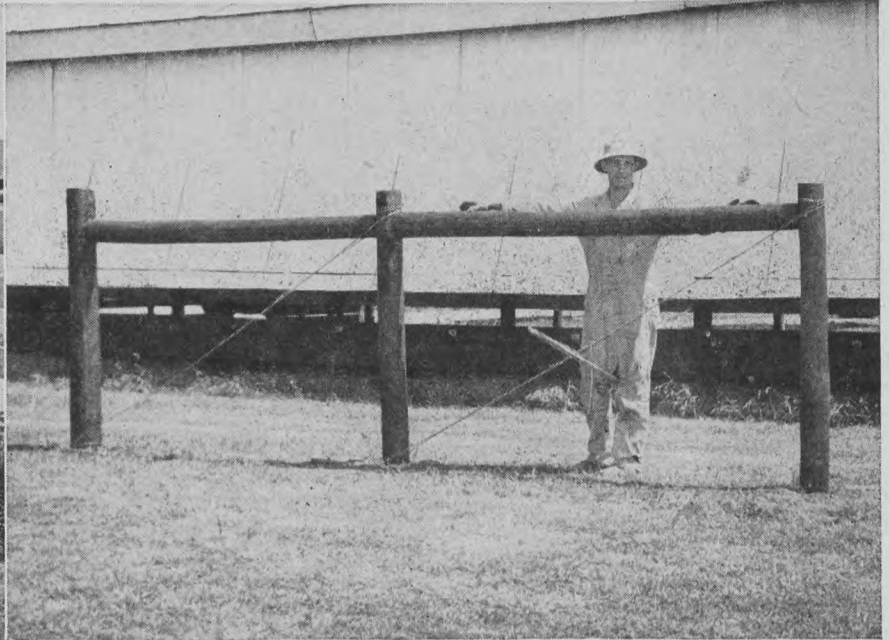
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Fence Corners

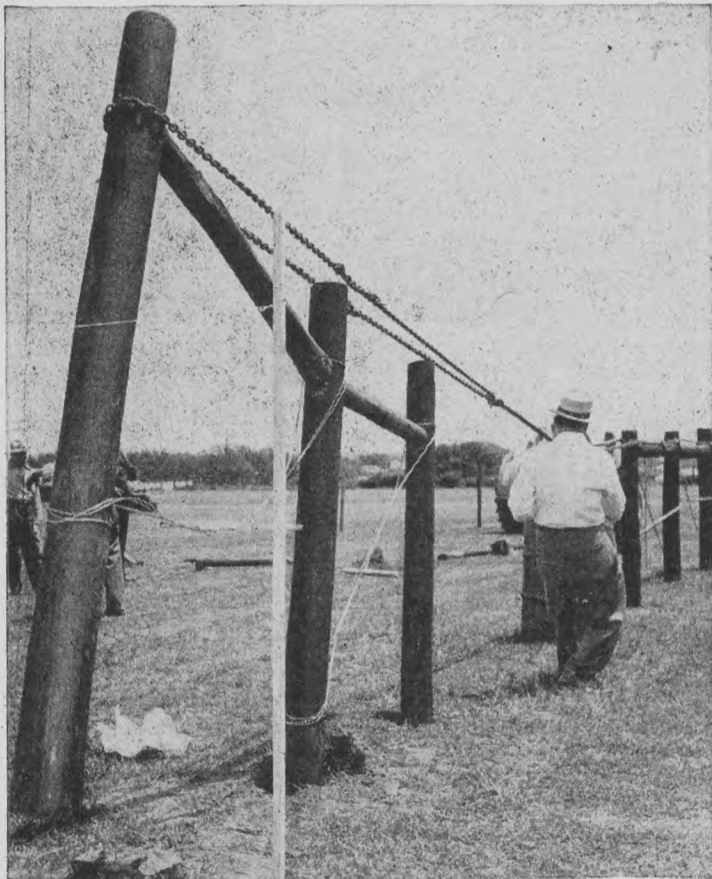
Text and Photos by
GILBERT HILL



Three years after, the white fence shows wear, the creosoted portion almost none.



Corner sections a rod long, posts set 3' deep and cross-braces level, do best.



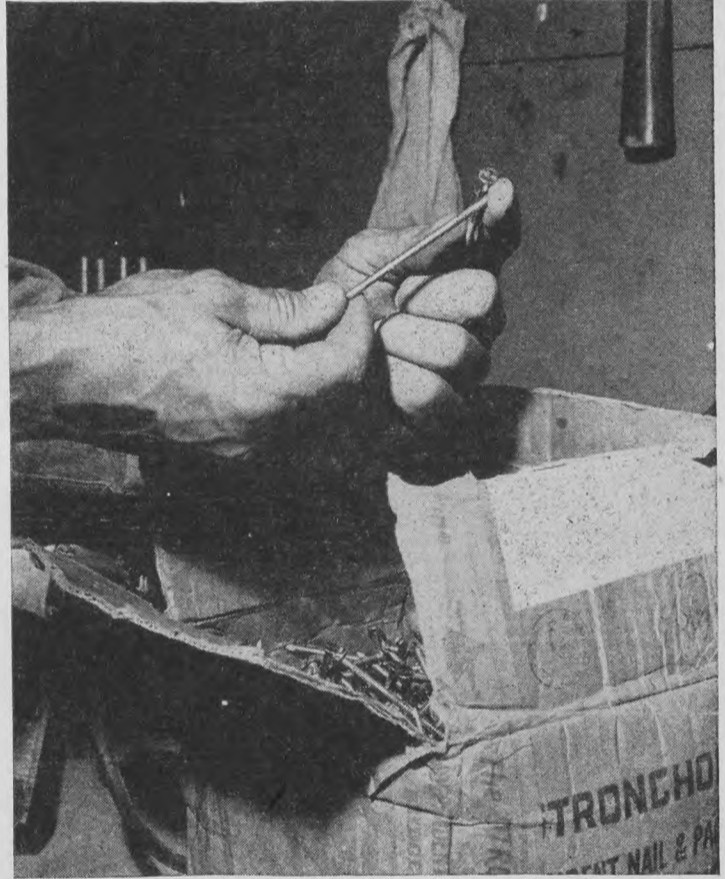
With posts 2' 9" down and short cross-braces, it couldn't stand up.

WHITE board fences around a farmstead are beautiful. But, personally, W. F. Lott, superintendent of the Oklahoma A & M College Demonstration Farm near Oklahoma City, prefers black—particularly the black-brown of pressure-creosoted posts and lumber.

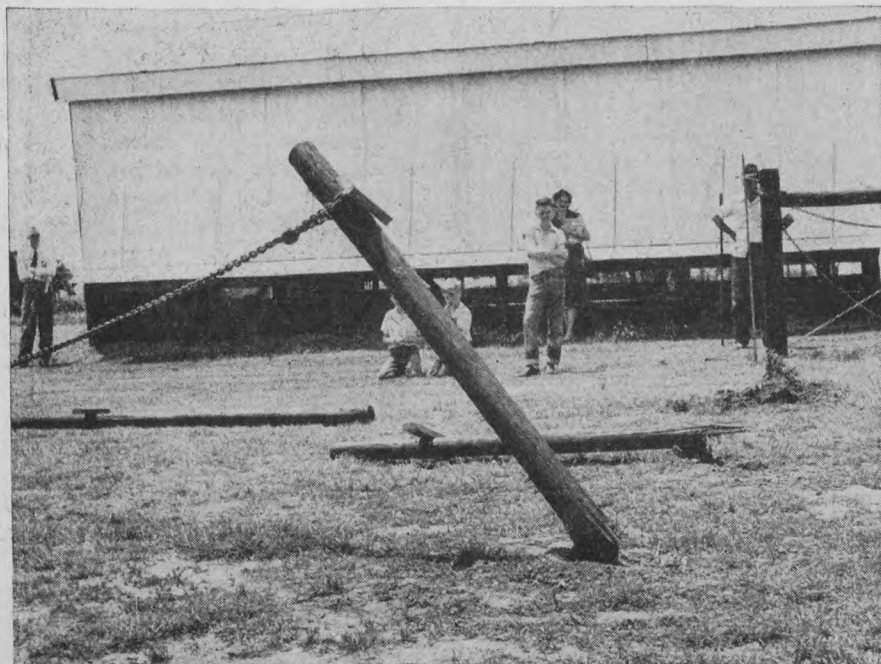
He believes that, "anything is beautiful to a farmer which doesn't require painting, and practically no other maintenance for maybe 35 years."

The farm is operated by the college, but is sponsored by the Oklahoma Lumbermen's Association and the Chamber of Commerce in Oklahoma City, to try out various ideas and show them to farmers.

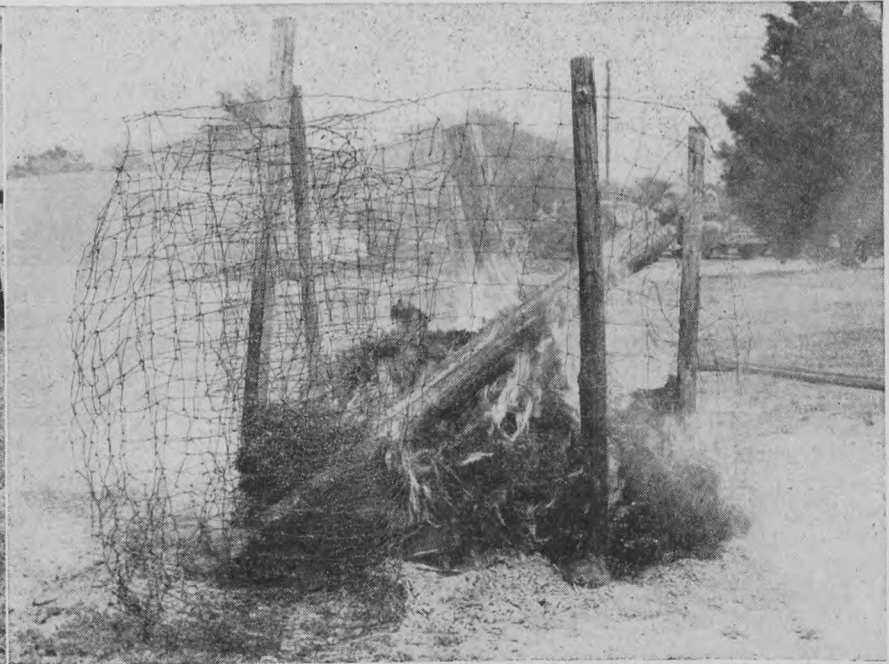
One of the biggest difficulties with creosote has been that neither nails, nor staples, would stay (Please turn to page 42)



Special nails and staples stay put in creosoted posts.

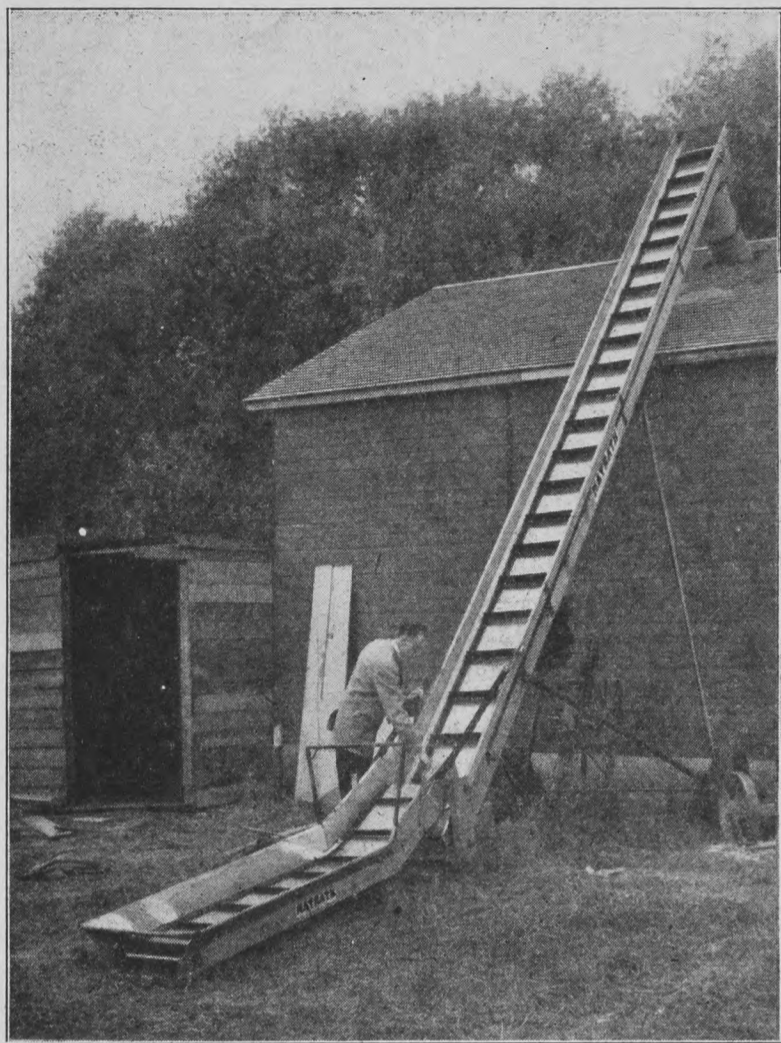


Shallow-set posts will pull out or lean badly: properly set posts break off.



Burning test merely charred pressure-creosoted posts but destroyed others.

Can Swathing Be Side-Stepped?



High-volume fans used in low-temperature grain driers introduce a new efficiency to the art of drying grain, and place a question mark opposite the future of the swather

The Bradleys' grain drier (left) looks like any other granary, but (right) a monstrous fan, viewed by C. V. Faulkner, associate editor, *The Country Guide*, is built into one end of the bin and blows enormous quantities of drying air through the grain.

WILL the steady forward march of techniques developed on our western farms relegate the swather to the same fence corner that already holds so many machines, forced to the sidelines by the newer, better adapted equipment? It could happen. It won't be soon, and it may not be in the best long-run interests of western agriculture. That doesn't mean it will not happen.

The new threat to the pre-eminence of the swather is the grain drier. Farmers who have built machines that dry grain fast and effectively are already talking in terms of abandoning their swathers. Said J. F. Bradley, Portage la Prairie registered seed grower, "Even in a year when the harvest is not cranky, it would be a distinct advantage to be able to straight combine as soon as the grain will thresh out of the heads. Even if it was cut this early the grain would store after it had spent a day or two in the drier."

John Scott of Gilbey, North Dakota, is talking in the same terms. "You'd side-step a score of problems if you could cut out the swathing, straight combine and then condition the grain in the drier," he commented to a *Country Guide* editor. "That's assuming it won't shrink, and I've had no trouble with shrinking so far," he said. "You could harvest whenever the field was dry enough to carry the combine."

The advantages are indisputable. There have been too many recent harvests when the snick, snick of the swather sickle has conjured up clouds, ready and anxious to pour cold water on a farmer's hopes. A month after the swather has left the field the swaths still lie, sad, soggy and flattened; and a discouraged farmer feels the wet grain, looks disconsolately at the cloud-grey sky and dreams of hot, south winds and sunny days.

Even if the much-dreamt-about "ideal harvesting weather" does materialize, a drier can still be helpful. For one thing, you can't swath for nothing. "I've kept close track of the cost of drying grain," said John Scott. "I figure it costs me about .45 cent—less than half a cent—to dry a bushel."

On a 20-bushel crop, that runs to nine cents an acre. You can't swath for nine cents. On the other hand, there's extra hauling and handling with the drying method. And the original cost of the drier can be steep.

Ignoring the cost advantages—admittedly small—there are other gains: The grain goes under cover sooner; harvest is cleaned up quickly, leaving more time for fall work. The third advantage—and this is probably the big one—is that the drier is always there, ready to be called on, and the owner is able to be on the line, perched and ready to start the race toward a completed harvest whether the fall is foul or fine.

THESE advantages are substantial. Like most coins, however, this one has two sides and, when it is turned over, certain disadvantages are revealed.

The first is a question mark, rather than a proven disadvantage. The *Country Guide* called on the plant science department of the University of Manitoba and asked Professor L. H. Shebeski, department head, if grain would shrink when threshed early and dried quickly. "I don't really know," he replied. "But I'm prepared to find out." So the plant science department will co-operate with the agricultural engineering department on a project in which they will dry grain threshed at normal swathing time, and observe whether it shrinks or not.

In the meantime the best advice is to go slow on tying up a lot of money in a grain drier if you plan to use it to get rid of your swather. If you plan to use it to dry rain-soaked grain, that is another matter; there is plenty of evidence that drying matured grain which has become wet will not shrink it.

The second disadvantage was pointed out by Dr. J. A. Anderson, chief of the Grain Research Laboratory, Board of Grain Commissioners. He said that from a milling and baking point of view, the ideal way to condition grain is to dry it in the field. The second best is to dry it in grain terminals, where there is careful, scientific control. The third way is to dry it in farm driers.

"If grain is dried on farms, and temperatures are not controlled within the proper range of heat, the excellent milling and baking reputation of Canadian wheat could be damaged," he told us.

"A tremendous amount of wheat was dried in terminals in 1951," said Dr. Anderson. "When we started drying, our overseas customers tested the wheat for milling and baking, but they learned that it was dried under careful, scientific control, directed by this laboratory, and they soon came to trust it. The quality of the grain was not damaged."

THE Scott and Bradley driers are the product of the fertile imagination of George Ravenhorst, cattle breeder, registered seed grower, and spare-time engineer, at Olivia, Minnesota. He designed the drier now in use on the John Scott farm, and the Bradley equipment is modelled on the Scott outfit.

The working heart of both driers is a tremendous fan, an air-moving mammoth with a four-and-a-half-foot diameter and a girth of almost 16 feet. In the Scott drier it is driven by a stationary, diesel engine; the Bradley fan is powered by a 40-horsepower tractor p.t.o. The fan gulps great mouthfuls of air and blows it whistling through the grain.

The Bradleys modified a 24-foot by 24-foot granary to make their drier. Rather than build a false floor they enclosed the space under the granary with concrete walls, to make an air-tight chamber. A cement wall divides the space under the granary into two 12-foot by 24-foot air-tight chambers.

The fan is opposite the end of this cement wall. A door, which can be swung across either of the openings leading to the two sides of the granary, permits the forcing of all the air under either bin with the other closed off. (Please turn to page 45)

by RALPH HEDLIN



My boss made it clear that he wanted his crop stooked almost behind the binder, in case it rained.

I REMEMBER my last day at Wild Brier school as if it were yesterday. Through the opened windows, the sticky fragrance of the dark Alberta balms filled the rooms. I remember the spaces between the unpeeled spruce logs, where the boys had poked out the plaster; and the cold, cast-iron heater which, in winter, roasted the kids nearest it. For some odd reason, I associate Miss Featherdown with the big, grey wasps' nest, still stuck in its branch, that decorated one corner of the room. But mostly, I remember that day because I realized the time had come when I must tell my father I wasn't going to be a homesteader like him—I was going to be a writer.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men," Miss Featherdown had warned me, "and if you miss it, Stanley, you'll stagnate in this—this primitive land."

Miss Featherdown had always been my teacher at Wild Brier. She taught the full 11 grades, which I managed to get through in nine years. Such a thirst for knowledge, according to Miss Featherdown, entitled me to "a chance in life."

According to my dad, however, it meant I would be able to start grubbing stumps that much sooner; drive the oxen (horses cost more than \$100 in those early days in the Alberta bush); repair the old snake fence; clean the two log barns, help in the fields, "and generally," as Dad put it,

best in print—but I was sure I'd make enough money to buy a team of horses to replace our oxen. In no time at all, there would be a brush-breaker plow for Dad, new dishes and a "bought" table for Mother.

I was barely 17 then and the school-teacher's revelations as to the money real authors earned staggered me. Some of them, she said, owned both country and city houses.

Father, as I feared, was definitely not on the side of art.

"We need you on the farm," he said flatly, "and besides, we haven't the money for a—a—what kind of a writer is it?"

"A typewriter," I supplied, not too hopefully.

Few of the farmers had actual cash in those days; and already I was wondering if I could get work somewhere—with actual dollars for pay—that I might fulfil my dreams.

AT the post office on a sultry August evening, I heard opportunity talking in the person of a farmer from farther north who was requesting the postmaster to be on the lookout for someone who could do a bit of stooking.

The farmer's name was Mr. Wrycjoski—which nobody could pronounce. He was the most prosperous in the district—had a section of land and horses standing around idle in the pasture. He was a big man with enormous red mustaches, and he practically filled the wicket as he leaned in and talked to the postmaster.

"lend a hand for a change."

I knew it was going to be a tough business convincing my father that I had only to knock and the world would open its doors. I was sure if I could only get a typewriter, I'd be a real author. I hadn't made up my mind whether Stanley Draywood Harrison or a pen-name would look

"Mr. Raysnoski," I said, pronouncing his name as best I could, "I'll stook for you."

The farmer extricated his head from the wicket and looked down on me dubiously. He played with the ends of his mustaches.

"You're awful thin, kid—"

"I've been stooking for years, Mr. Raysnoski."

"Wrycjoski," said Mr. Wrycjoski. "I got you now—you're Sam Harrison's boy—the smart one in school. What you want to stook for?"

"To buy a typewriter. I'm gonna be an author."

"A what kind of writer?" said Mr. Wrycjoski.

I explained what a typewriter was. "So you see, Mr. Rimoski—"

"Wrycjoski," said the farmer patiently. "Look. If you're that smart in school, you should be able to say a simple word. My name's pronounced just like she's spelt. Say her slow. Rrr—"

"Rrr—" I echoed.

"Jaw—"

"Jaw—"

"Ow-w—"

"Ow-w—"

"Skil!"

"Skil!"

"You see," said Mr. Wrycjoski, "just like she's spelt. How do I know the stooks ain't gonna fall down two weeks after you leave?"

"Mr. Rawjayski," I pleaded, "I'll let you keep the money two weeks, just in case. If they don't fall down in two weeks, they'll never fall down."

Illustrated by Clare Bice

"Okay, boy," said Mr. Wrycjoski sadly. "But I dunno what makes a kid like you get such notions."

I made the mile and a half home from the post office in about four minutes flat, bursting to tell Father the good news. But the verdict hadn't changed.

"I said no. Whatever put this authoring idea in your brain, anyway? I'm a farmer, your two brothers want to be farmers, and all your relations were farmers . . ." His brow suddenly clouded in recollection. "Except," said Father ominously, "one sister of mine." Rarely did he ever mention my Aunt Abigail Porter, who lived in Seattle. "One day she decided to become an author, and she's never done an honest tap of work since. I won't hear of you touching it."

When Father talked like that, it was just like when old Pat, our ox, got balky. I got up from the supper table, not hungry any longer. My room under the eaves was filled with books of scribbles. Every waking hour, I enlivened my life with drama and imagination.

My mother saw the disappointment in my face and spoke up.

"Let him earn that money, Sam."

"But, Nellie! The work on this place would kill an ox! What's he want to be slaving for the neighbors for?"

"Is his schooling to be wasted?" asked my mother patiently.

"That," roared Father, "was your doing!"

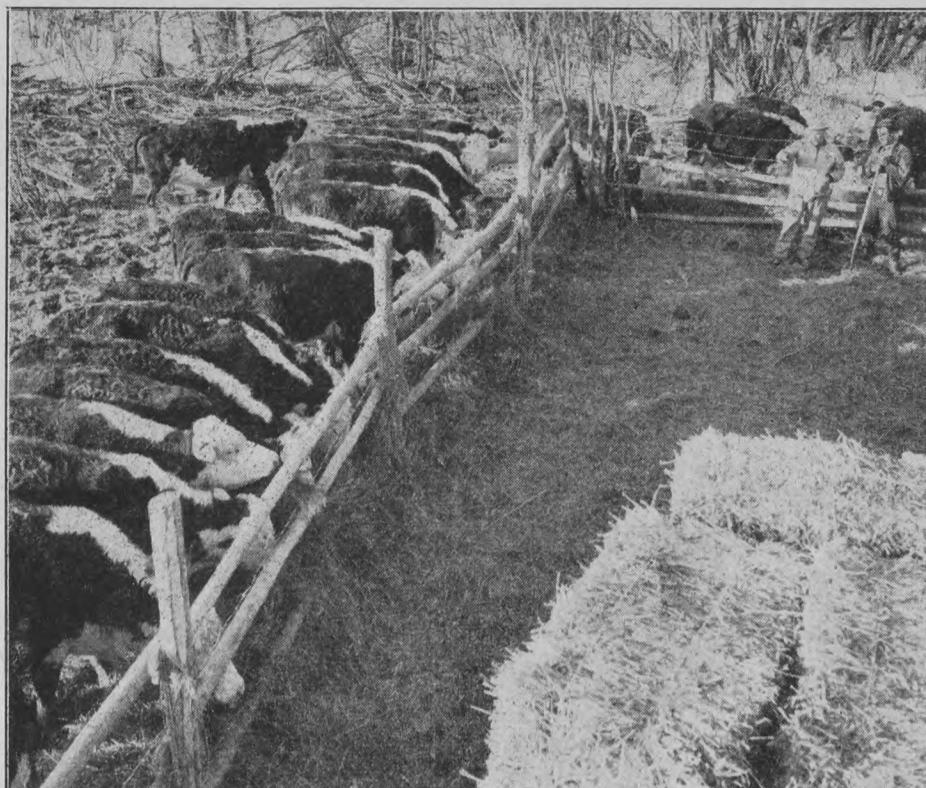
"It won't hurt to give him a chance," said my mother; and it was so seldom she asked for anything that my father gave in, but not without muttering the hope that I'd soon get over the foolish idea and start clearing a homestead of my own.

MR. WRYCJOSKI had 400 acres of his hilly land in crop. Used to Dad's small fields, wrested ten acres each summer from the tough poplar bush, the sight of that vast sea of honey-colored wheat almost made me dizzy.

"That's what I keep fresh horses for, kid," said Mr. Wrycjoski, with pride. "When she's ripe, I want her cut. When she's cut, I want her stooked. It would kill just four horses to cut that crop."

It never occurred to Mr. Wrycjoski that what could kill four horses should, all things being equal, kill one

(Please turn to page 50)



The well-fed Herefords gather around the pole corral for a dinner of baled hay.



Tom Lamb and son Douglas discuss soil left behind brush-cutter.

Rancher North of 53

Tom Lamb farms and ranches in the delta of the Saskatchewan, 60 miles from The Pas

by LYN HARRINGTON

Photos by Richard Harrington

THE feathery poplar trees bent and shook as the plane whirled over them, not quite grazing their tips. Tom Lamb, veteran pilot, peered anxiously out his window in search of white-faced Hereford cows, lost somewhere in that jungle of foliage.

Then, as he flipped the plane over on its other wing, his passengers carefully scanned the bush on the opposite side. In all that 1,000 acres of delta island, not a trace of the missing 95 cattle was to be seen. Three disconsolate bulls bawled dismally from time to time. The only answer they got was from a cow moose with twins, who moved in close to the cattle for protection from wolves.

"Never mind, Tom," the Moose Lake Indians reassured him. "They'll get together."

"But it has to be soon," Tom expostulated in Cree, "or the calves will be late in coming next spring. The cows will have too much milk, and the leftover might turn to mastitis. There's 27 different kinds of mastitis, you know!"

All the Crees knew was that Tom Lamb had taken to ranching with the same vigor he displayed in all his previous enterprises, and his eager mind settled on the salient facts relating to his new enthusiasm.

Starting with a fur-trading post at Moose Lake, Tom Lamb has built a small empire, and become a fabulous character in northern Manitoba. He freights by tractor in winter, by barge in summer, and by airplane all year round. His six sons are all air-minded, and equally enthusiastic about his other operations. Tom Lamb, at 54, can infect others with his fire. Yet he is a most equable person, never known to lose his temper.

In the 1930's, he pioneered muskrat reclamation in the marshes of the Saskatchewan River, east of The Pas. A 54,000-acre island leased from the government, was diked and flooded,

and is still producing thousands of 'rats each spring. The adjoining Summerberry Muskrat Ranch copied his techniques with equal success.

FROM the plane we could see the marsh, as flat as an airport,—the delta of the Saskatchewan River. A vast plain of grass and muskeg, with bunches of trees around the main

watercourses, it was cut by the winding, muddy Saskatchewan, tawny with silt, and dotted with endless ponds. Perfectly even banks indicated where Tom's dragline had cut channels for water control, and revealed dikes more than a mile in length.

"You can see there," he shouted over the roar of the motor, "I'm flood-

ing the land on this side of the river for muskrat ranching—and draining it on the other side for farming." His mobile face lighted with a grin at his own expense. "This could all be farmland, though—support lots more people—much more profitable for the country."

Draining marshlands may be unpopular in some quarters, but it would seem justified here. Those great flats, 70 by 75 miles in extent, could be turned into four million acres of rich black soil at an estimated cost of \$12 million. Divide that, and it comes to about \$3 per acre for land which needs little clearing.

It would probably be sour for a time, a condition that would be corrected by exposure to air and/or the use of lime. Four million acres suddenly introduced to agriculture might throw the market off balance. But of course it would not come into production all at once. Other fertile land in the vicinity of The Pas is now being developed.

Although there are some herds of cattle around The Pas, this is the only sizable herd, and the only one north of 53 in Manitoba. Lamb purchased 60 head of good Hereford stock at MacGregor, Manitoba, and trucked them to The Pas.

They were loaded onto his scow and ferried down the meandering Saskatchewan and Summerberry Rivers, and up Moose Creek. In 12 hours, they reached the 1,000-acre island Tom Lamb leased from the Manitoba Government, a region of open swamp, poplar- and willow-covered land,—wild hay meadows, all accessible only by water or by air.

Another trip of the barge down to the farm at Moose Creek carried equipment never before seen in the region. The first threshing machine made that 12-hour trip through the slow channels of the delta. A mechanical broadcaster, which carries 100 pounds of grass-seed distributed by

(Please turn to page 47)



The 7-L Ranch headquarters are still only partially developed. The barge serves at times as dormitory.

MOST PRODUCTIVE, EASIEST HANDLING

Big Power

FARMING HAS EVER KNOWN



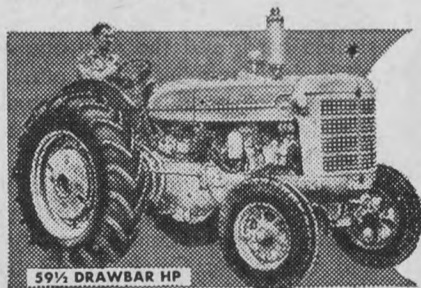
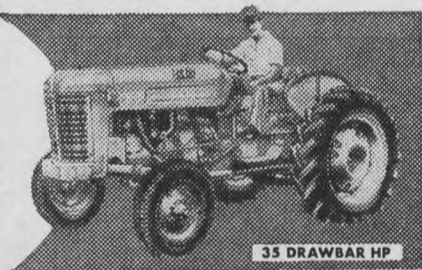
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fier drive. Completely independent pto. Power steering. Hydra-Touch remote control. Only the International W400 in its field offers all these aids and many more to help you do more work in a day, easier than ever before.

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Under the Peace Tower

by HUGH BOYD

AROUND Parliament Hill, lately, there has been some speculation as to whether Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe would be ready soon to call it a day, as far as public life is concerned. The trade minister is making no statements one way or the other, but few would be surprised if he were to retire next October, at the end of 20 years in parliament.

Mr. Howe is in his 70th year, and while outwardly he seems as durable as ever, the massive weight of responsibility may be beginning to be irksome. No one has ever thought of his equally tough-fibred colleague, Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, in terms of early retirement, but this may be because Mr. Gardiner has been content to run one department at a time. There have been times when Gilbert and Sullivan's Pooh-bah had nothing at all on C. D. Howe, in the matter of having a multiplicity of departments and crown corporations under him.

It is being said that the trade minister, so long accustomed to having his way, has felt frustrated by the amount of opposition that developed within the cabinet to his plans for a trans-continental natural gas pipeline by an all-Canadian route north of Lake Superior. Mr. Gardiner, too, it might be noted, has had his disappointments, notably the continued postponement of his chief remaining ambition, the South Saskatchewan River dam.

IF Mr. Howe does indeed pull out in the near future, western farmers will lose a powerful friend. He hasn't pleased all of them all the time, obviously, but it is difficult to imagine anyone fighting more zealously for international trade, so vital to western agriculture. And in spite of all setbacks—including the serious embarrassment caused by Washington's wheat give-away program—there has been much positive achievement.

For one thing, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which seemed on the point of expiring a few months ago, has survived. What sort of instrument the new GATT will turn out to be, largely depends on United States attitudes. Mr. Howe, whose recent speeches still show him to be an optimist, say three times in four, thinks the American administration is winning its own battle for liberalized trade. If so, this will be good news for Canada. Skeptics may say that Canada's protests against unfriendly acts directed by Congress have little or no effect, but the record suggests that on several occasions they have had a quite marked effect. Some important trade restrictions have been either abandoned, or greatly modified, as a result, largely, of representations from Ottawa. President Eisenhower is certainly a sympathetic listener.

The President, of course, is faced with all sorts of internal pressures. Protectionist forces within the United States were never stronger, and so it is all the more remarkable that they don't consistently get their own way.

But as the West is well aware, protection is by no means moribund in this country. It is even to be found



within the ranks of organized agriculture, where the argument is that as long as secondary industries receive tariff aid, farm production should have similar treatment. For example, the Tariff Board is holding an inquiry this month into the potato situation. The growers, especially in the Maritimes, insist that they are being exposed to unfair competition from the United States.

MEANWHILE, while the West may believe that secondary industries are being treated pretty well in the way of tariff aid, many manufacturers have a very different view. In Montreal, recently, a call for more protection came from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. As one spokesman put it: "The cornerstone of any commercial policy should be an adequate tariff policy. However attractive the principles of free trade among all nations may appear, it is an impractical policy for any one nation to follow, under conditions prevailing in the trading world today."

These sentiments may be set against a forthright speech by Mr. Howe before the same organization, in which the trade minister said:

"I regret to say that there are those in all countries who would turn back the clock toward restrictionism, whenever the going gets a bit rough. . . . Neither government, nor industry, can afford to blow hot at one time and cold at another, when it comes to the promotion of trade. There must be steady pressure in the direction of more trade, if the best results are to be attained.

"I know, of course, as well as you do, that Canada by itself cannot determine the trade policies that will be followed throughout the world. However, let us not make the mistake of underestimating our own influence. We are the world's third or fourth trading nation, and many countries are anxious to build up their markets in Canada. Trade is a two-way street for them, as it is for us."

If Mr. Howe decides that 20 years as a cabinet minister are long enough, another will no doubt carry on the same general policies, which, of course, are not of any one man's making. But whether any successor will pursue the goal of liberalized international trade with as much vigor and singleness of purpose, remains to be seen.

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Ford is the V-8 that's *worth more* when you buy it, because it brings you more of the things people want most. It gets you more when you sell it, too—as statistics show, year after year. Ford is Canada's *worth-most* V-8!

Ford is the *proved* V-8 of its field—the most advanced of 18,000,000 great Ford-built V-8 engines!

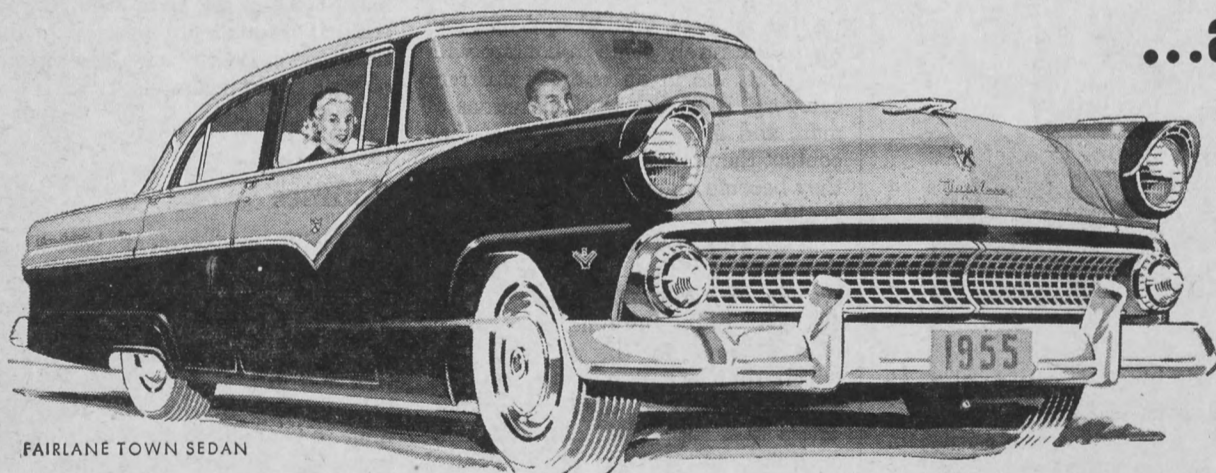
Ford, as always, is the largest-selling V-8 in Canada—and it's Canada's lowest-priced V-8, too!

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8

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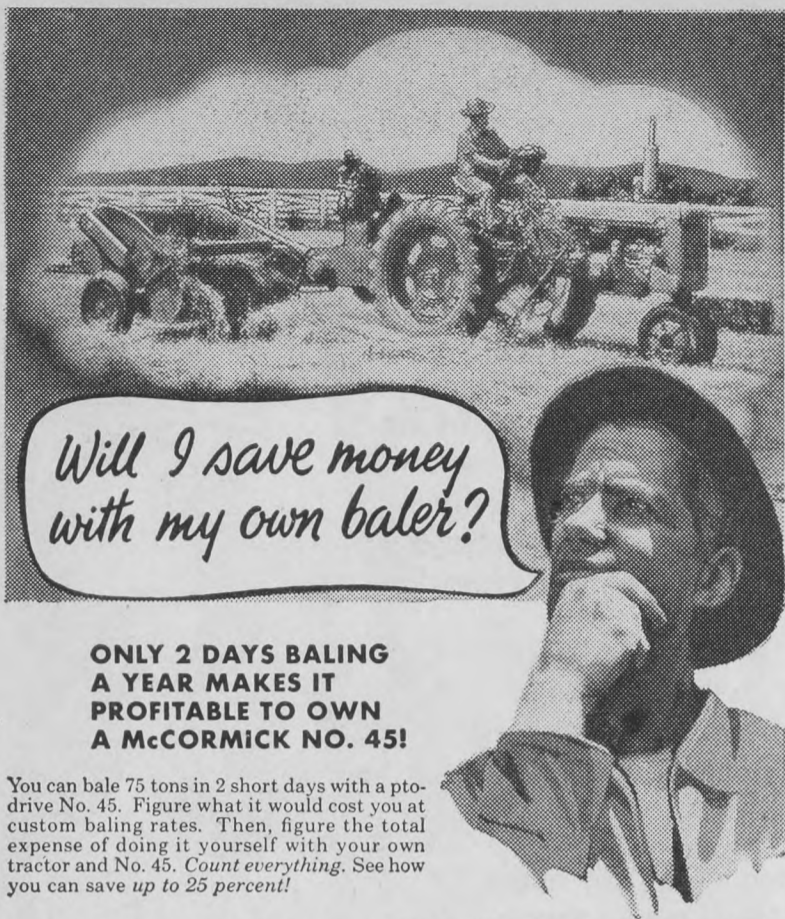
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Twine Tie**

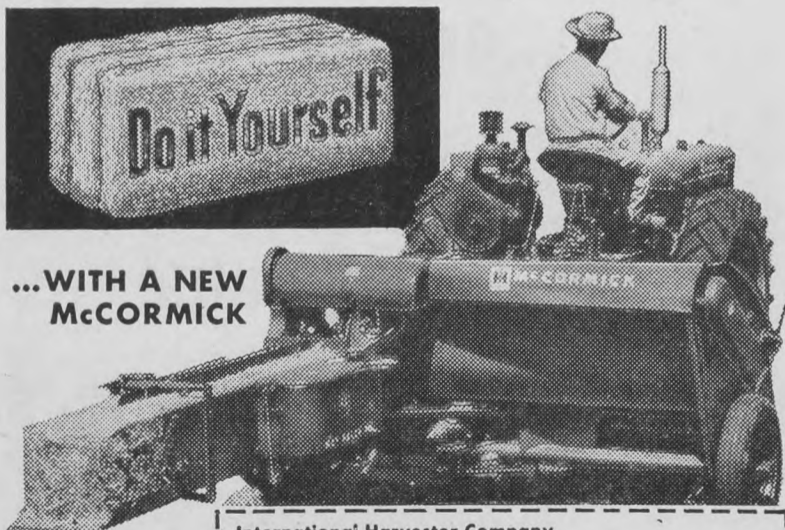
**McCORMICK No. 45 POWER DRIVE
Twine Tie**

**McCORMICK No. 55 ENGINE DRIVE
Twine Tie**

**McCORMICK No. 55 ENGINE DRIVE
Wire Tie**

**McCORMICK No. 55 POWER DRIVE
Twine Tie**

**McCORMICK No. 55 POWER DRIVE
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NEWS OF AGRICULTURE



Rats fighting in an open garbage can. Good tight covers on all trash cans are an aid in rodent control.

The War Against Rats

RECENT meetings of Alberta rat control officials at Wainwright and Oyen reveal that the steady westward advance of rat hordes across the prairies has been halted in the eastern parts of the province. In some areas the pesky rodents are being pushed back toward the Saskatchewan border. But the invaders are still advancing to the north and south.

The meetings were called by the pest control division of the Alberta Field Crops Branch; those in attendance included pest control officers, municipal and agricultural service board authorities, and district agriculturists in the rat-infested areas. Department of Public Health officials who were present pointed out that there is definite evidence of bubonic plague among rodents in the area from Oyen to Hanna. Although rodents such as gophers, ground squirrels, and field mice rarely come in contact with man, rats are in an entirely different category. Rats seek the habitations of man, and live on his support—if they contact the plague from other rodents, they become a grave menace to public health.

It was agreed by those attending the meetings that Alberta's present system of rat control was proving effective. Eight full-time pest control officers work in the infested area, which stretches from the North Saskatchewan River to the Cypress Hills. These men supply poisons, and demonstrate and assist with control measures during their farm to farm checks. Residents of eastern Alberta have been giving full support to the control program because they know from first-hand experience what an expensive and dangerous guest the ordinary household rat can be.

Water Surplus In Saskatchewan

"It seems ironical," said Agriculture Minister I. C. Nollet of Saskatchewan, "that our province, traditionally known for her severe droughts, should face the prospect of two consecutive crop failures over a large area because of too much rain."

Saskatchewan farm operations, culverts, and roads are geared to an average yearly rainfall of 15 to 17 inches. When this was increased by about six to eight inches for each of the past two years, plus another three to five inches added by severe storms this spring, the result was disastrous for a good number of the province's farms. Many of those farmers who suffered most in 1954 won't be able to seed their farms this year—in fact, unless steps are taken to drain their land, they can't even look forward with any certainty to 1956.

In the eastern part of the province, from Moosomin to north of Prince Albert, an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 farms are seriously affected, involving a total of 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 acres. From 8,000 to 9,000 of these farms cannot be cropped at all this year, and seeding will be late, and yields low on the remainder — many will have to abandon wheat in favor of oats and barley. A lot of farm families who scraped through last year with practically no crop are facing the prospect of little or no income in 1955.

New Vet Courses

A NEW arrangement has been reached between the Ontario Veterinary College and several universities, including the University of Saskatchewan, for veterinary students to take the first year of their course at their own university and then continue to Guelph for the remaining four years. At Saskatchewan, the course will be limited to about 12 students a year, but the new agreement won't stop students from going directly to Guelph for the full course if they desire.

Resort Project

MERRILL DENISON, noted Canadian author and playwright, has deeded a 10-square-mile piece of property located at Bon Echo on Lake Mazinaw, Ontario, for public use. It is hoped the site will be developed into a well-equipped, comfortable, conference headquarters for all-year-round use by scores of Canadian or-



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NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

ganizations. To examine the project, a group has been formed called the "Bon Echo Committee," consisting of representatives from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Canadian Association for Adult Education, the Canadian Citizenship Council, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and several other interested groups and individuals.

Mazinaw is one of Ontario's loveliest lakes, and is known chiefly for Echo Rock, which towers 400 feet straight up from the eastern shore. The Denison property contains five miles of shoreline, large holdings of timber, and almost all of the Rock itself. The site is believed to be ideal for conferences because it is felt that the most desirable form of adult education, for men's and women's clubs, business, farm, and labor groups, is that carried on in some beautiful setting, far away from city cares. Whether the facilities necessary for such a center will be constructed depends entirely on the interest shown by the people of Canada via their organized groups. Although the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has made no commitments concerning the project, the matter will be taken up at a board meeting this month so that it can be considered by the organization's directors. V

New Substations

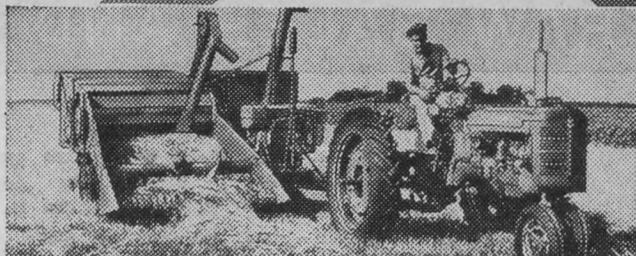
A NEW experimental substation will start operations this year in the clay belt of the Upper Nelson River area at Wabowden, on mile 137 of the Hudson Bay Railway. The extensive tract of lacustrine clay soil comprising the area extends north from latitude 54 to latitude 56, or from Norway House in the south to beyond Nelson House in the north.

Last year, 30 acres of land was cleared and broken which may prove suitable for agricultural production. Cereal, forage, and vegetable crops, with or without fertilizers, will be tested this year under the direction of the Brandon Experimental Farm.

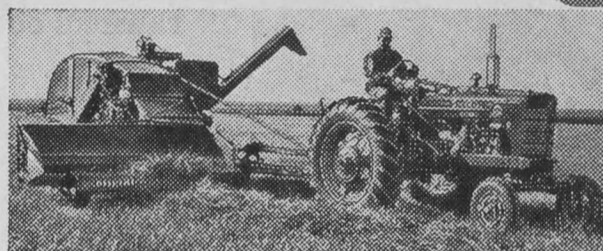
Another new substation to be opened this year is located at Vegreville, about 50 miles due east of Edmonton. Soils of the Vegreville farm vary from a deep black loam to the solonetz type—the latter are characterized by heavy, sticky clay subsoils which are poorly drained and difficult for water, air, or plant roots to penetrate. The new substation has been established to do the research work necessary to find how to restore this type of soil to permanent production. Crop rotation, forage crop, and tillage machinery tests are planned to find those most suitable for the area, although this first year most of the land will be summerfallowed to put it in condition for the experimental program, and to reduce the weed population. V

Coming Events

A FEATURE attraction at the Jubilee Commonwealth Hereford Show and Sale to be held at Regina, August 3 to 6, will be ten British pedigree Hereford bulls and six heifers



McCORMICK NO. 64 PULL-TYPE—Engine or pto-drive. Compare it with any medium size combine you've ever seen. Six-foot cutting width. Ample capacity to clean-thresh a 12-foot windrowed swath.



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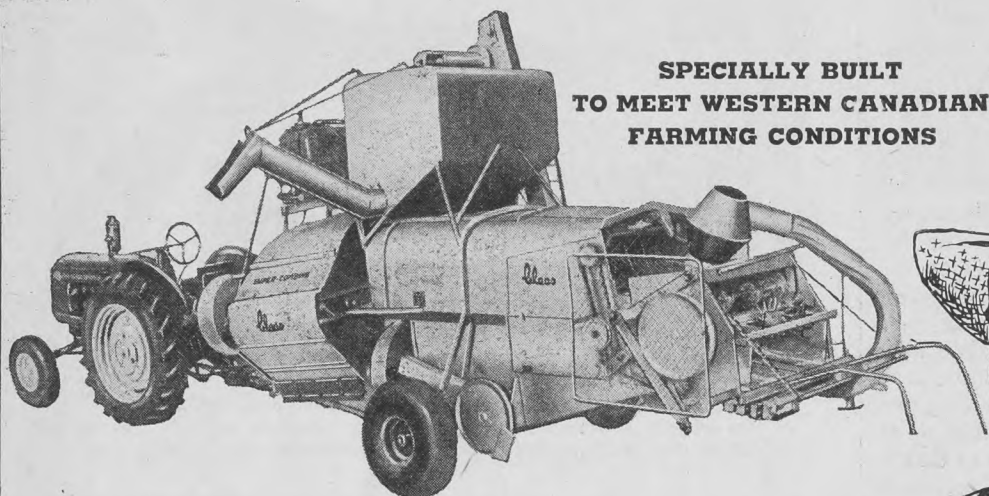


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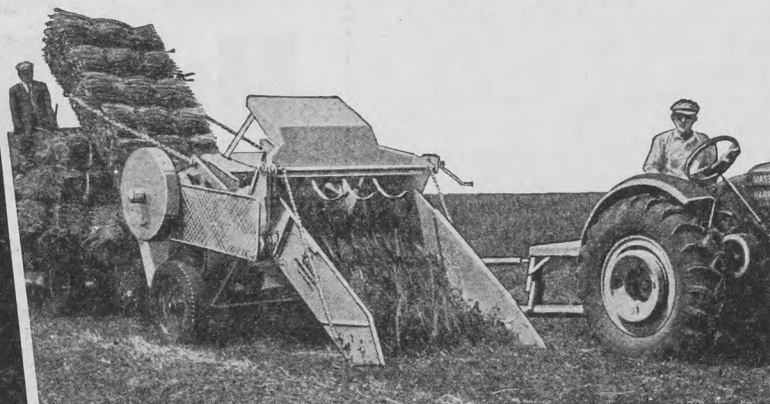
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NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

which were shipped from Glasgow for the event. Founded on a type which was prevalent in Herefordshire centuries ago, the Hereford is one of the world's best-known breeds. Their entry at Regina marks the culmination of two years of planning by English and Canadian Hereford breeders.

Another Saskatchewan event will be the Poultry Jubilee Conference to be held in Saskatoon, June 23. Sponsored by the Saskatchewan Poultry Association, the two-day meet will see the attendance of distinguished visitors who were associated with the province's early poultry industry.

Because of the huge livestock shows scheduled for Saskatchewan this summer, entries in the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede (July 11 to 16) are expected to be the largest in the Stampede's 57-year history. Alberta beef and dairy breeders are planning a large entry, and Ontario breeders are sending a big contingent of Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn cattle. Other highlights of the Calgary show will be a big sheep sale, a Brahma bull and lion act, and a special performance by world champion bronc-riders Casey Gibbs of South Dakota.

In British Columbia, the Okanagan city of Vernon will play host to the annual meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, June 15 to 17. Main speakers will be Dr. J. G. Taggart, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Canada; M. B. Davis, retired head of the Horticulture Division, Canada Department of Agriculture; Dr. E. R. Jackman, Range Crops Specialist from Oregon State College, and Mr. Guy Shumway, a forage seed producer from McMinnville, Oregon. V

Saskatchewan Land Clearing

SOME 2,500 Saskatchewan farmers who have leases on Crown lands will be eligible for cash payments for clearing and breaking done this year. Nearly all payments under this policy will be made to war veteran settlers, except for about 250 farmers in settlement projects, and those who have leased extra land to expand a small unit. The policy was designed to give farmers who have heavy clearing costs some cash assistance for bringing land under cultivation. Those who depend entirely on Crown land for their income, and who have 75 acres or less cultivated, can receive full payment for 50 acres of clearing and breaking. If they have over 125 acres cultivated they can still receive cash for 25 acres a year until a total of 175 acres is reached—no assistance is given farmers with over this amount of cultivated land. V

Edible After Sixty-three Years

IN a ceremony at the offices of the New York State Canners and Freezers Association, Rochester, New York, a 63-year-old can of corn was opened and its contents found to be in first-class shape. The corn had been packed under routine plant conditions in 1891, in an old-fashioned hole-in-cap type can with hand-soldered seams which was standard to that period, more than a decade before perfection of the modern open-end container. V

NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

Get It At a Glance

A look at the general agricultural scene for items of interest to Canadian farmers

Total supply of feed grains and other concentrates for the 1954-55 season in the United States is estimated at about 181 million tons, a near record per animal unit. Balanced against these feed supplies is an expansion in livestock production, chiefly hogs. This amounts to a three per cent increase in grain-consuming animal units for this season. ✓

The drought emergency feed aid program in U.S. drought disaster areas has actually become a feed grain surplus disposal program. There is every indication that it will remain a feed industry marketing factor for the balance of this year. ✓

Co-operative organizations doing business entirely in Saskatchewan in the 1953-54 fiscal year exceeded \$433 million in net turnover of business and services. Added to this, interprovincial co-operatives operating within the province accounted for another \$35 million, making an over-all total of nearly half a billion dollars. ✓

Soviet farmers have been ordered to shift to corn-and-hog farming and many satellite countries are following suit. The move is the result of the poor showing made in the drive to increase production of livestock. Many farmers slaughtered their stock because compulsory delivery quotas were so excessive, and purchase prices so low that there was no profit in animal husbandry. ✓

The food freezer plan has had a stormy career since it was started about four years ago on the U.S. West Coast. Like any young industry, it attracted many unqualified, and even unscrupulous operators who sought a quick fortune at public expense. Most of these, however, are now out of business, and the remainder are operating in an aura of respectability. ✓

One thousand Saskatchewan farmers have taken advantage of the 1954 fall seeding forage crop program. The program was started in 1947 to encourage livestock raisers to seed down recommended grass-alfalfa mixtures to build up a feed reserve on the farm for crop failure years. ✓

Prize money and purses offered this year at the Calgary Stampede will reach a new all-time high of \$120,000. This is the most that has ever been offered at any Exhibition in the prairie provinces. ✓

American milk production in 1955 will reach about 124 billion pounds, predicts the U.S.D.A., and domestic use of dairy products (in terms of milk equivalents) will total 121 billion pounds. If special export shipments exceed two billion pounds, as they are bound to do, American surplus dairy stocks will be considerably reduced. ✓

Surplus stocks of dairy products made available free last spring to U.S. private welfare agencies feeding

needy people abroad, amounted to nearly 90 million pounds of butter, 50 million pounds of cheese, and over 60 million pounds of dried skimmed milk. ✓

Fifteen per cent of American farm exports last year were financed by U.S. economic aid, about the same percentage as for the previous year. In 1951, it amounted to 25 per cent, and in 1948-49, about 60 per cent, which would indicate that country is managing to sell a good deal more agricultural goods than it gives away. ✓

Canadian grain acreage for 1955 is expected to show a slight increase over that sown last year. The biggest increase is forecast for barley and oats, with a small expansion of mixed grains and rye. However, spring and fall wheat acreages are expected to decline; plantings of the former are expected to be down as much as 600,000 acres. ✓

Wool prices in New Zealand this season have been slightly below those of last year. About three-quarters of the present wool crop has been sold at an average price of 57.4 cents per pound, as compared to 58.3 cents per pound for last year. ✓

Wheat supplies continue to be heavy in the world's four principal exporting countries, in spite of a net drop of 500 million bushels in their 1954 production. According to the latest survey, the reduction was greatest in Canada, substantial in the U.S., and moderate in Australia. Argentina, on the other hand, registered an increase which offset the Australian decline. ✓

A slow-down in New Zealand meat shipments has been asked by Great Britain for this month because of heavy stocks of meat in storage in the latter country. Increased British home production, and the U.K. housewife's preference for fresh meat are the main reasons given. New Zealand may seek other markets for its beef and lamb to make up the deficit. This year 11 million pounds of meat have already been shipped to Russia. ✓

An increasing amount of U.S. farm products are being purchased by Holland; in 1954 these reached a total of \$181 million, an increase of 46 per cent over the previous year. Grains led the list, followed by fats, oils, and cotton. A large part of Dutch farm imports, however, are processed in that country and re-exported. In return, Holland has shipped \$64 million worth of farm commodities to the U.S., chiefly meat, fish products, bulbs and flowers. ✓

Rice imports to Japan are being kept down in favor of wheat and wheat products. That country's rice imports rose sharply last year because of the poor Japanese crop in 1953. Thailand is the biggest rice supplier, followed by the United States and Burma. ✓

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LIVESTOCK



A few good purebred Shorthorn heifers on the Frank Wotherspoon farm at Melville, Sask.

More Meat from The Same Pasture

*Proper pasture management can double
grass production without doubling costs*

EVEN farmers who exercise great care with cropland may wear out pasture and not realize they are doing it.

Recent pasture management advice from experimental stations at widely separated points and on different kinds of soil point up the fact that pasture care is as individual as the care of cropland.

J. B. Campbell of the Swift Current Experimental Station points out that although very few range management practices will actually increase pasture carrying capacity in the prairie areas, spring protection of range is effective. It increases the summer and fall forage supply. Experiments show that pastures which are protected until late June will produce as much as 50 per cent more than those grazed continuously from May to October.

If the range is to be left ungrazed for this period an alternative pasture is required. Crested wheatgrass, alone or with alfalfa, will produce excellent pasture until late June. In the northern prairie area one acre per cow should provide the needed feed, and in the drier central regions two to three acres should suffice.

From the experimental station at Beaverlodge, Alberta, in the Peace River area, comes the suggestion that if suitable pasture species are seeded and commercial fertilizers used excellent sheep pasture can be grown.

In 1954 a red fescue pasture, seeded in 1951, carried four lambs per acre from May 28 to September 30. It produced 85 pounds of lamb per acre. When 100 pounds of ammonium nitrate was applied per acre in the early spring it carried eight lambs per acre. Fescue-alfalfa and brome-alfalfa pastures, which were unfertilized, carried eight lambs per acre and produced total seasonal gains of 175 and 199 pounds of lamb per acre, respectively.

The addition of a legume gave a greater benefit than the use of fertilizer on grass alone. When ammonium nitrate was applied to the grass-

legume pasture, the carrying capacity went up to 12 to 13 lambs per acre—over three times the carrying capacity of unfertilized fescue.

Overgrazing and consequent injury to the fields was avoided by dividing each field and practicing rotational grazing.

The work was done on a grey-wooded soil. Those who conducted the experiments are satisfied similar results would be attained on any of the darker soils.

From the Experimental Substation at Smithers, British Columbia, comes a report on the renovation of old, unproductive bluegrass pasture. Renovation was attempted through tillage, fertilization and reseeding, singly and in combination.

Best results were obtained with a combination of all three treatments, in which plots were tilled, fertilized and reseeded.

Shallow diskings were of little benefit as the bluegrass recovered quickly and smothered any grasses that might have been established from reseeding. Intensive tillage, such as one-waying to a depth of four inches prior to reseeding, was most beneficial. A combination of orchard grass and red clover has been found best to date, though the tendency of orchard grass to winter-kill suggests the need for further observations.

Applications of ammonium phosphate (16-20-0) gave marked responses. Fertilization at the rate of 100 pounds per acre, without tillage or reseeding, increased per acre dry matter production by 1,513 pounds. One-waying, reseeding with orchard grass and red clover and fertilizing with 100 pounds of 16-20-0 increased production by 2,380 pounds per acre, when compared with pasture which received no treatment.

On many old pastures plowing and reseeding would be more economical than these renovation practices. However, many pastures cannot be plowed, and stocking capacity can be in-

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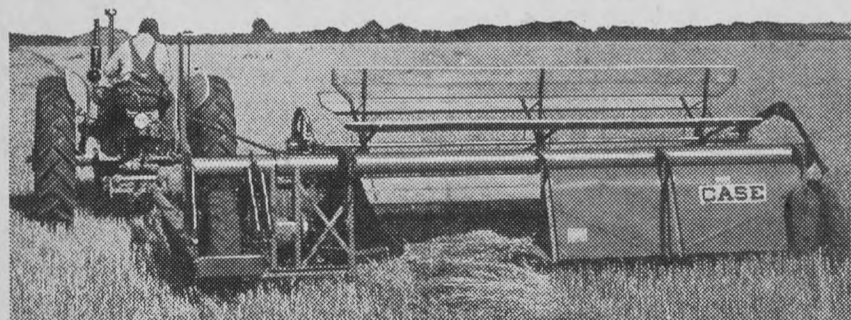


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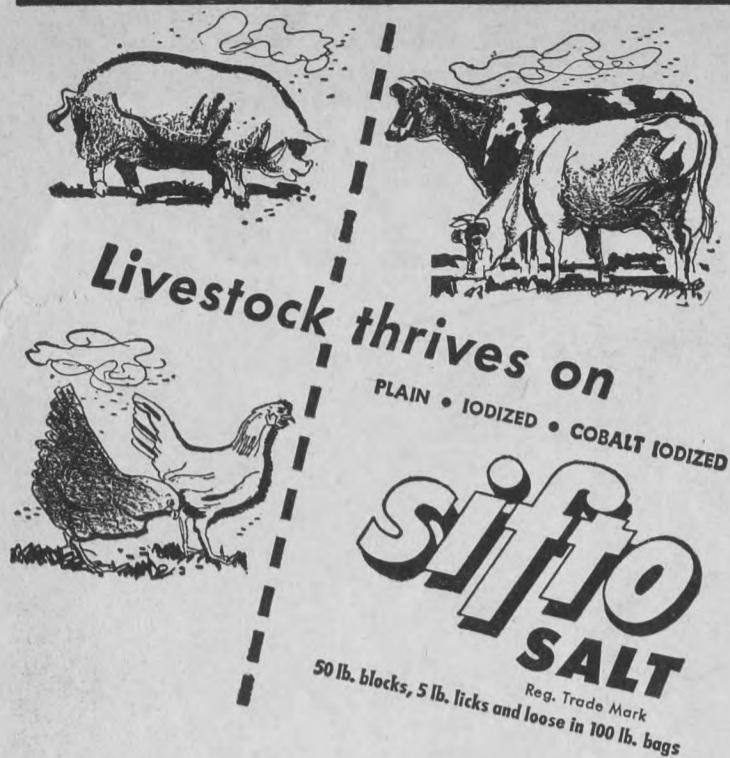
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LIVESTOCK

creased by a proper system of pasture renovation.

Different treatments are effective on various pastures; the results cited demonstrate that, in many areas, the ideal management of pastures can greatly increase forage production. V

Factory Inside The Cow

WHAT is really most amazing about the action which takes place in the cow's rumen is that three forms of life are interdependent there. First, there is the life of the cow herself, whose sustenance is secured from the great variety of forage she consumes; next are the bacteria which help the cow to the extent that they can find inside her rumen the necessary energy food, upon which they can develop and, so to speak, prosper. Without these tiny organisms the cow could not live, because from her intake of rough feeds, many products essential to her are manufactured inside the rumen. These probably include, for example, the entire range of B-vitamins. She also seems to be able to manufacture a male hormone which, when consumed by chickens, makes their combs and wattles brighter.

The bacteria are not interested in philanthropy, or in keeping the cow alive. They are, like the cow herself, merely hungry. However, their nature requires that the cow make some provision for a balanced diet for them, if they are to help. Thus, they are prepared to tear into any coarse fibrous forage that the cow may eat, provided she also eats enough easily fermented forage to enable them to work hard to balance their diet with the proteins which they can make, or synthesize.

The third life form to be involved in the nutrition of the cow is that of the protozoa. Protozoa are a form of larger one-celled animal life. They feed on the bacteria, and there are countless billions of them in the rumen of a single cow. Indeed, they are thought to make up five per cent of the volume, or a maximum of close to three gallons in a single 60-gallon rumen.

It is believed now that the cow gets her essential vitamins and the ten essential amino acids, which she makes in her own factory but receives at third hand, from the protozoa. Some investigators think that the cow can digest the protozoa better than she can digest the bacteria.

Another important factor in the digestive system of the cow is that a large part of the liquid in the paunch is saliva, which the cow secretes at the rate of about 125 pounds per day. After the food has been in the rumen for from 12 to 24 hours and has been softened by the liquid and worked over by the bacteria, it is regurgitated in the form of a cud or bolus, which the cow chews for about a minute, and then swallows again.

One of the principal functions of the saliva is to neutralize the acids which are formed in the fermentation vat by the chemical reactions which take place there, during the digestion of such a large quantity of carbohydrates as are found in the cells and woody parts of plants. The cow each

day thus provides in 125 pounds of saliva some two-thirds to three-quarters of a pound of sodium bicarbonate. As against this, the bacteria secrete enzymes which break down the fibre or cellulose of the roughages consumed by the cow, and convert this into more digestible carbonates which are principally organic acids, including acetic and butyric acid. It has been estimated that in a single day a cow would produce three-quarters of a pound of acetic acid. It is even believed that the seat of butter-fat formation may be in the paunch.

These, and other wonders that we do not yet know about, all operate within what the Wisconsin governor called the "darkest place on earth." Scientists no doubt will discover much more about what goes on inside this 60-gallon fermentation vat; and the more we know, the more likely it is that we shall be able to use more advantageously the cow's wonderful ability to transform roughages into high-quality human foods. V

Bang's Disease

Vaccination Increasing

THE number of calves vaccinated in Saskatchewan during 1954-55 increased by more than 10,000 over the previous year.

Vaccinations are done under the Federal-Provincial Brucellosis Control Program. Under this program, commonly known as the Bang's disease prevention program, calves are vaccinated either under a municipal agreement, where the municipality has passed a by-law which makes vaccination compulsory, or, alternatively, under an individual voluntary herd plan basis.

Calves are vaccinated between four months and one year of age. During 1954-55 a total of 46,140 were vaccinated in Saskatchewan.

Under the Federal-Provincial agreement the federal department supplies the vaccine and the province supplies ear tags and certificates of vaccination and distributes the vaccine to the district veterinarians, who do the work.

Since the program began in 1945, over 158,000 animals have been vaccinated in Saskatchewan, says Dr. Thomas Johnston, provincial veterinarian. Most of these have been vaccinated in the last five years. V

Better Tasting Detergents?

A VETERINARY scientist at the University of Wisconsin is reluctantly coming to the conclusion that cows would rather run the risk of death by bloating than face the evil taste of bloat-controlling detergents.

R. E. Nichols, the veterinary scientist involved, last year arranged for 40 Wisconsin farmers to use detergent on some 1,400 cows. When he went out to survey the results he was told by most of the co-operating farmers that detergents sprinkled on the cows' feed or added to the salt seemed to control bloat—but the cows were very reluctant to eat the detergent-enriched feed.

LIVESTOCK

A medicine is of little use unless it is eaten. Nichols is going to get the cows to eat the detergent and like it: in tests he is now beginning he will mix it with taste-masking molasses, saccharine and licorice. V

Iron for Newborn Pigs

TWENTY per cent of the losses of newborn pigs is due to anemia, which is a result of an iron deficiency. Newborn pigs do not carry a large enough reserve of iron to take care of their requirements throughout the suckling period. To avoid a deficiency iron must be fed to the little pigs.

Three doses should be given at one-week intervals, starting three days after the birth of the pig; the second dose will come on the tenth day and the third on the 17th or 18th.

If reduced iron is used, each dose should consist of not more than half the amount that will lie flat on a ten-cent piece. If paste in tubes or liquid iron is used the directions on the package should be followed. It should be placed on the small pig's tongue. It is a good practice to give four or five drops of concentrated cod liver oil with each dose of iron, suggests A. J. Charnetski, Livestock Supervisor in Alberta.

In order to be sure that the little pigs are getting enough iron between doses, a few shovelfuls of clean soil should be put in the corner of the pen. A couple of boards and a stake will prevent the sow from disturbing the soil, but they should be so placed that they allow the little pigs access. V

Vaccinate Against Blackleg

WHEN blackleg announces its presence in a herd of cattle the announcement usually comes too late for part of the herd. The first indication of an outbreak is often the finding of one or more animals dead in the pasture.

If the carcass of an animal that has died from blackleg is examined swellings may be found on any part of the body. These swellings give off a crackling sound when they are handled, due to the presence of gas under the skin.

Even if the animal is found before it is dead and the disease correctly identified there is no known sure cure for it. The best method of control is prevention, and, fortunately, this is relatively simple. A vaccine, proof against both blackleg and the similar disease, malignant edema, has been available for some time, and should be used. Calves should be vaccinated early. If they are vaccinated before they are three months of age they should be vaccinated again when they are a year old.

Animals that die of blackleg should be buried, and so should any earth that the animals are known to have contacted. The animal and soil should be covered with lime. The organism that is responsible for the disease can remain alive in the soil for many years, says Dr. Tom Johnston, Saskatchewan's provincial veterinarian. V



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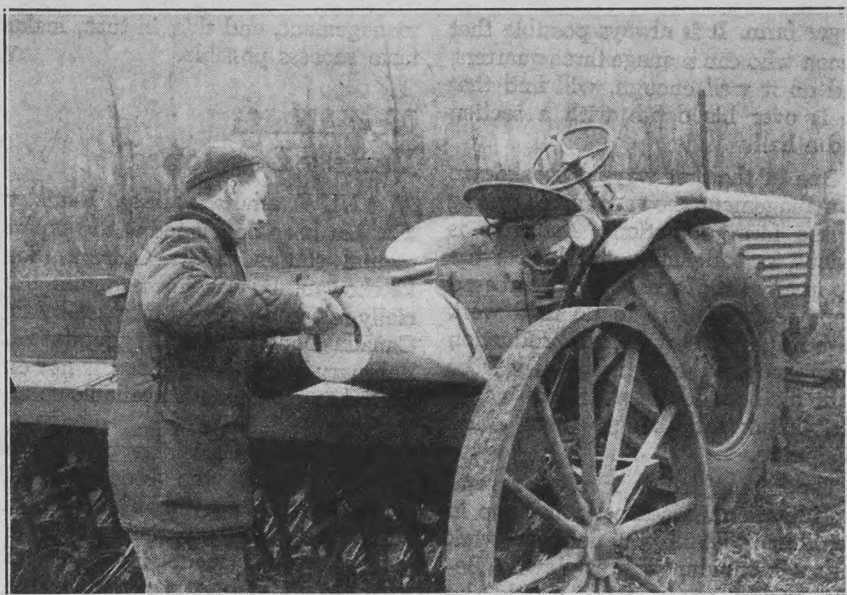
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FIELD



Eddie Sloma of Arborg, seeding barley on his northern Manitoba farm. [Guide photo]

Tractors Don't Overturn by Themselves

If you try hard enough, and go about it the right way, you can tip your tractor. The make of machine doesn't matter

READERS of a recent article in The Country Guide ("Power Packed Menace," April) have written and asked which make of tractor is most easily tipped.

Any tractor can be tipped, but there is no evidence that one tips more readily than another. As a matter of fact, reference was made in the article to three tractors which were tipped, and it is interesting to find on checking back that these were of three different makes. Another interesting fact is that not one of the operators involved blamed the tractor; all blamed themselves.

"I don't know whether anyone has ever attempted to analyze the tractors available on the basis of how easily they tip, but there is no reason to believe that one tractor tips more readily than another," Professor G. L. Shanks, head of the agricultural engineering department, University of Manitoba, told The Country Guide. "The problem isn't the tractor. It's the operator," he said.

"I've never considered any one make of tractor particularly prone to tipping," said George Holmes, agricultural engineer, Extension Service, Manitoba Department of Agriculture. "If there is a difference, and I don't believe there is, anyone who tips the most easily tipped tractor would be in critical danger of tipping any tractor he might buy.

"The difference isn't in the tractors; it's in the operators," he went on. "Some farmers say the tricycle-wheeled tractors tip more easily, and perhaps they do if the hind wheels have been set close together. However, I am satisfied that there is no appreciable difference, and that there is no excuse for tipping any of them. A careful operator doesn't tip his tractor.

"Some casualties aren't due to tipping," he continued. "The operator may fall asleep, especially if he is working at night. Safety belts are available, which connect to the switch

and shut down the tractor, if the operator falls off. They should be more widely used, especially for night work."

"If an operator feels that his tractor is quick to rear up he should use a lower hitch," suggested Professor Shanks. "And one thing that should not be done with any tractor is to make a chain hitch to the axle. The axle is high, and a hitch to the axle does not stabilize it as the regular hitch will."

W. H. TINGLEY, Hatherleigh, Saskatchewan, also has something to say about tractor accidents:

"I have just read the article 'Power Packed Menace,'" he wrote. "I would like to add my bit. I turned my tractor over last fall—it happened so doggone fast! I wasn't speeding—I had the front end loader partly lifted, and was moving up to the stack. What I didn't know was that early morning dew had caused one side of the loader to pick up dirt. The stacker prevented the tractor from rolling onto its top. I jumped, but not far enough. I sure did some scrambling! I was about 20 feet away before I looked to see what had happened!"

Mr. Tingley suggests that a foot throttle would give an operator more control of his tractor. He also suggests that a tractor should always have brakes! "I was using a borrowed tractor without brakes, and it started to back down a hill," he wrote. "I shut off the ignition, but I still got my back badly scratched in a willow bush!"

It all adds up to the fact that it doesn't matter what make or kind of tractor you have; the main thing is to be careful with all of them. V

Good Timing Is Good Management

IT is safe to say that, as a farmer increases the size of his holdings, the most frequent cause of failure is the farmer's inability to manage the

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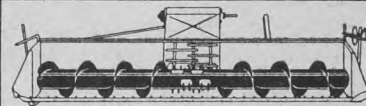
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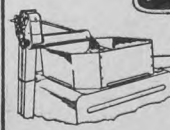
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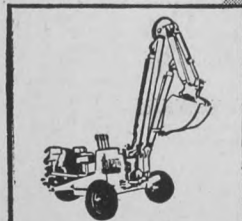
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FIELD

larger farm. It is always possible that a man who can manage three quarters, and do it well enough, will find that he is over his depth with a section and a half.

One of the first ways a breakdown of management shows is in the timing of the farm operations. And this is serious, as bad timing stands near the top in any list of reasons for decreased crop yields. Failure to do field work at the right time will limit production more sharply than failure to use the right method, fertilizer, or crop varieties, important though these other things are.

The timing factor involves several considerations. Machinery must be in condition to go into the field and work with a minimum of breakdowns. Before spring work, seed should be cleaned and fertilizers on hand. Before haying or harvest, fuel and other needed equipment should be on hand and the equipment should be reconditioned.

An example of the importance of timing is afforded by the starting of the cutting of a legume-grass crop. Yield and quality of alfalfa and clover are at a peak when one-tenth of the flowers are open; if the start of haying is delayed until that date, and is going to take two weeks, most of the legumes will be cut too late. The value of the production will be enhanced by starting before the legumes are advanced too far, says the experimental farm, Prince George, B.C.

In a short growing season, such as we have in western Canada, organization and planning add up to good

management, and this, in turn, makes farm success possible. V

New Alfalfa Variety Developed

A NEW alfalfa variety, Rambler, has been developed at the experimental station, Swift Current, Saskatchewan. It was licensed and officially released for seed increase by the Canada Department of Agriculture in February of this year. Seed is not expected to be generally available before the spring of 1957.

Rambler alfalfa is the product of crosses between the blue-flowered variety, Ladak, and the yellow-flowered variety, Siberian. The original cross was made in 1938 and selection and improvement since that time has resulted in this new variety.

Rambler is distinguished by a creeping-rooted habit of growth, by its resistance to drought, and by its winter hardiness. The color of its flowers is variable, ranging from blue through greenish-yellow to yellow; yellow flowers predominate.

After cutting it recovers more slowly than the common alfalfa varieties. Its special suitability is for seeding pasture and hay fields in a mixture with grasses. At most points in the prairie provinces it yields as well or better than Ladak or Grimm on dry land, and will persist in the stand longer than either variety.

The persistence and spreading quality of Rambler are expected to make it especially useful in areas where the common varieties are often killed by cold or drought. V

What Causes Poor Quality Silage?

Research scientists in Wisconsin have tested hundreds of samples of silage to answer the quality question

MOST farmers can tell good silage from poor silage. When it comes to telling just why one lot of silage was poor and another was good they are not quite so sure.

A group of scientists at the Agriculture Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin, last year undertook to throw additional light on the problem. They put up 450 samples of pure alfalfa silage in quart jars and studied fermentation and its effects on silage quality. Through the year they tested the samples to determine how good silage differed from poor, in terms of chemical and bacterial content. Reactions of silage in glass jars is much the same as in large silos, they say.

They found good quality silage contained large amounts of lactic acid and smaller amounts of acetic and succinic acid. In good silage there were no propionic or butyric acids.

Poor quality silage contained little or no lactic acid and larger proportions of propionic and butyric acids, as well as some acetic and succinic acids. The succinic acid gradually disappeared; the lactic acid also disappeared in the later months of storage.

The scientists are fairly well satisfied that poor quality silage contains

organisms which use up the lactic and succinic acids. It was established that acceptable silage was more acidic than poor silage.

What does this mean in practical farm terms? Silage quality depends a lot on the moisture in the alfalfa. Silage stored at 75 to 100 degrees F. made very good silage when the moisture content ranged between 67 and 69 per cent, while samples with 73 to 83 per cent moisture made poor silage at these temperatures.

All samples stored in this temperature range contained plenty of bacteria, but the quality of the silage depended on the moisture content. Fermentation was good up to 115 degrees F., but only low-moisture silage was of good quality.

Silage made with molasses preservative was of excellent quality, even if the moisture content was high. Other good preservatives were 0.4 per cent sodium metabisulfite, 0.375 per cent Kylage or one per cent calcium formate. These preservatives improved acid production and prevented the formation of undesirable butyric acid in the silage.

Good quality grass silage was made without preservatives, when put up at the proper moisture content. Where

FIELD

preservatives are needed ground corn has done a good job.

The bacteriologists tried making silage as late as September and October. These late samples always graded low, even though there was a good build-up of bacteria. The bacteria produced very little lactic acid but large amounts of butyric acid. The scientists think that the late-cut alfalfa did not contain enough fermentable carbohydrates for good acid production. On the other hand, alfalfa cut in late bloom, but early in the season, fermented just as well as that cut in the early bloom.

In practical terms the experimental work confirms that grass crops should be put up with a moderately low moisture for silage, or else a preservative should be used. In scientific terms the work has revealed valuable information on the chemical and bacteriological processes that take place inside the silo. V

You Can Control Wild Oats

by L. H. SHEBESKI

Killing Weedy Patches

FLOODING and unusually wet weather made it impossible for many farmers to prepare a seed bed early in the spring—which is desired in the delayed seeding method of controlling wild oats. By the time this article appears, seeding should be completed.

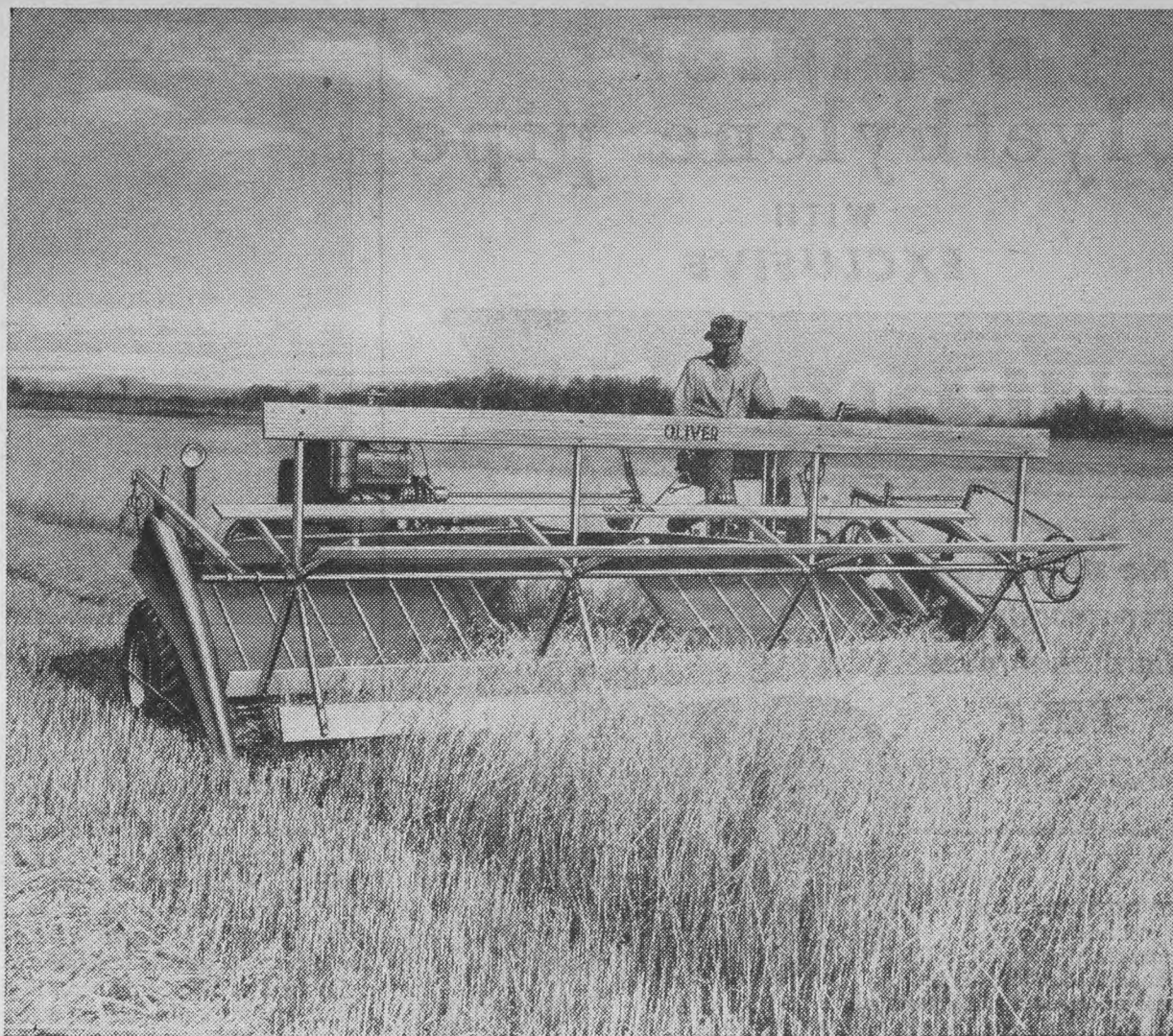
Fields should be examined during the growing season—particularly the low spots where seeding was done without previous land preparation because of weather. Wild oats can be expected in these spots, and should be cut as green feed just at heading, or plowed under as a green manuring crop, if there is no need for green feed.

These wild oat patches should be destroyed as there will be very little grain in such patches. If the wild oats are not destroyed, the seed they produce will perpetuate the problem.

If the wild oats plants are approaching maturity care should be exercised in disposing of the green feed that results from cutting out infested patches; the seed of wild oats may be viable when the plant still appears relatively immature.

This year we are again carrying on extensive tests with chemicals for control of wild oats; some of these appear promising. As more information accumulates, the results will be discussed in this column.

(Wild oats control is becoming an increasingly important problem. For this reason, The Country Guide has invited Professor L. H. Shebeski, head of the Plant Science Department of the University of Manitoba, to provide our readers with suggestions, from time to time, for the control of this costly weed. Each article will be short and practicable; and the suggestions offered will be sufficiently timely to permit of immediate use.—ed.) V



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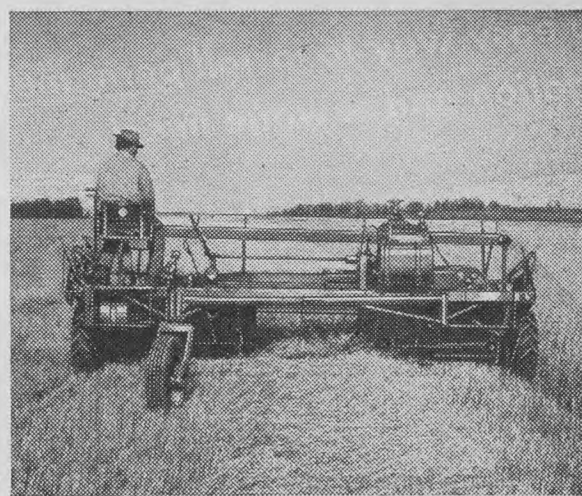
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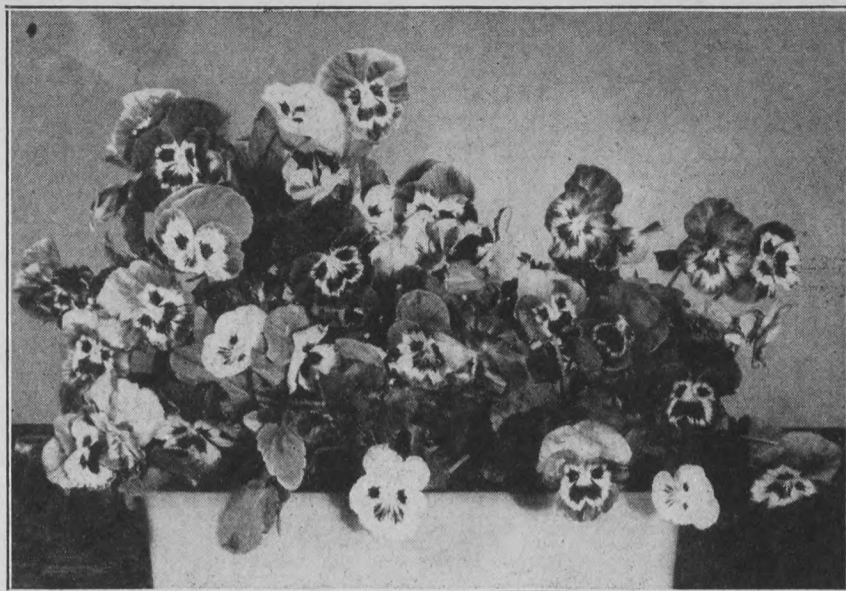


Photo by Eva Luoma

These queer little pixie-faced flowers are pansies, of course. They make a brave and colorful show and bloom for a long time.

After Care Of Spring Bulbs

EXCEPT for a few flowering bulbs, the bulb flowers such as tulips, daffodils, scillas, and crocus, provide about the first show of spring color after the snow has gone. When they have finished blooming, however, it is wise to give them good care, if good-sized mature bulbs are expected for the following year.

The first requirement is to remove the flowering stems as soon as the flowers are over. This prevents seed formation and the drain of nutrition away from the bulbs. These must form for the next year, and the process is really one of storing up food, which first must be manufactured by the foliage. Consequently, the foliage should not be removed as soon as the bloom is finished, but should be allowed to ripen naturally—generally over a month or six weeks. It will then turn yellow and can be removed without harm to the bulbs.

Some of the smaller bulb plants, like scillas, form seed pods. These can be allowed to ripen and the seedlings resulting from them will help to enlarge the clump.

If for some special reason, it is awkward to leave the plants where they have bloomed until the foliage has ripened, they can be taken up and heeled in, in a shallow trench out of the way, until the foliage does turn yellow. As much earth should be taken with them as will stick to the bulbs so that the root systems are not injured. The bulbs can be set close together in a trench about three or four inches wide and about four inches deep and covered with an inch or two of loose soil to keep them from drying out.

After the leaves have turned yellow the bulbs can then be lifted, dried in the shade, cleaned and stored until September, when it is time to plant them out again.

Currant Fruit Fly

THE currant fruit fly is a small, two-winged, yellowish fly, with dark markings on the wings. It lays its eggs in the developing fruits of the currant and gooseberry. Any fruits used

for the deposition of eggs become wormy, and are useless.

The Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba recommends that currant and gooseberry bushes should be sprayed with one ounce of 50 per cent DDT wettable powder in six gallons of water, or by using methoxychlor at the same rate.

In recent years the control of this troublesome pest has enabled prairie people to again enjoy these two fruits, which were practically useless from fruit fly injury for some time. Both the currant and the gooseberry provide delightful supplements to the diet in several ways, and to be able to provide high-quality, nutritious supplements of this kind makes gardening more of a pleasure as well as more useful.

Mites And Aphids

THE Morden station says that the comparatively new insecticide Malathion, comes very close to meeting the requirements for an insecticide which would control both mites and aphids on fruits and vegetables. It would not only be easy to apply and persist on the plant for a week or more, but be relatively harmless to human beings, as well as to the plant.

It is an organic phosphorus compound and kills by contact. It is no more harmful to humans than DDT. Nevertheless, smoking should be avoided when handling it, and neither the dust nor the vapor should be breathed. After using it, hands and face should be washed.

Spider mites are tiny creatures living on the under side of leaves, and making them turn whitish, or yellowish. They are often destructive on the raspberry. Two thorough applications of Malathion, applied at the rate of two pounds of 25 per cent wettable powder in each hundred gallons of water, should be given—first, after the leaf buds expand, and second, before the flower buds open when spraying raspberries.

The currant aphid causes a reddish cupping of the leaves. The first spray should preferably be given as soon as the leaf buds begin to expand, with later applications as necessary until

HORTICULTURE

the fruit has set, the formula being the same as for raspberries.

On plums and other fruits, mites and aphids can be controlled by the same insecticide and the same formula. Apply as soon as observed and repeat weekly as necessary. V

Control of Chickweed

PEOPLE who like to have a very nice lawn are often disappointed at this time of year by a few bare spots, which have developed over winter and need reseeding, as well as by dandelions which seem to find their way everywhere they are not wanted. Again in the late summer and fall, chickweed can become an even worse pest than the dandelion.

Dandelions are very susceptible to 2,4-D, but they are much more susceptible in the spring, and light application of 2,4-D, sprayed on quite early, should get rid of almost 100 per cent of these plants. One must, however, be very careful in western Canada, when using 2,4-D where the wind may cause some of this spray to drift into nearby shrubs and other perennial plants.

The chickweeds also are perennials and can be very troublesome. The Ontario Department of Agriculture has recently pointed out that these weeds spread by rooting at the nodes of the stem. Likewise, they also blossom and set seed during most of the growing season. They are quite resistant to 2,4-D, and for this reason the Crops Branch of the Ontario Department recommends using one ounce of 2,4-D acid and four ounces of potassium cyanate, in four gallons of water. This spray, however, should not be used for lawns consisting of bent grass. V

Everbearing Strawberries

THERE always seems to be somebody who is ready to take the joy out of life. This time it is someone out at the Saanichton Experimental Station in the garden belt of Vancouver Island. The man says—and he ought to know—(and so should you, if you don't know it already) that everbearing strawberries are not everbearing at all.

What happens is this, he says. After planting everbearers in the spring, all the flowers should be picked off until about July 1, so that the plants can become well established. After that date it will be about six weeks from the time the first flower appears, until ripened fruit is available. This means that berries can be picked from the latter part of August throughout the autumn. In the second season, the plants should give a good June crop; and, if moisture is available during July, there may be a small amount of fruit born, but they probably will not fruit well again until late August. Thus, everbearers, instead of fruiting throughout the entire season, give two crops in the same season, which, of course, is something. To top it off, we are told that the total yield can be expected to be somewhat less than that obtained from a good standard variety. So now you know why everbearers are not everbearers. V

Here is the big No. 55 working in windrowed wheat. Notice how the operator has a complete, clear view of everything that goes onto the platform.



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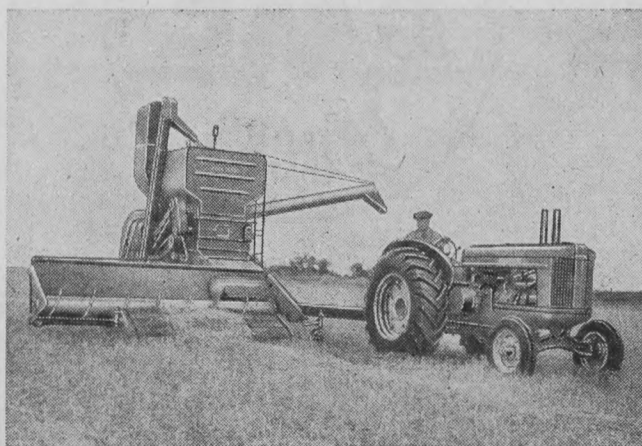
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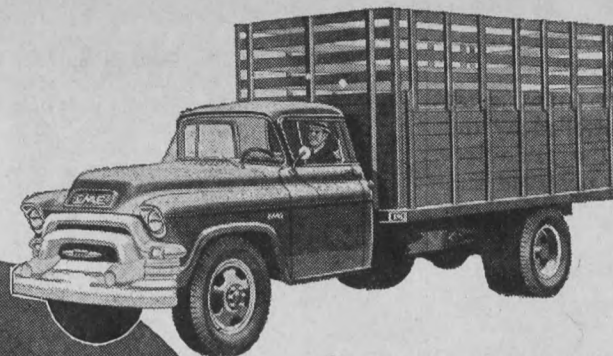
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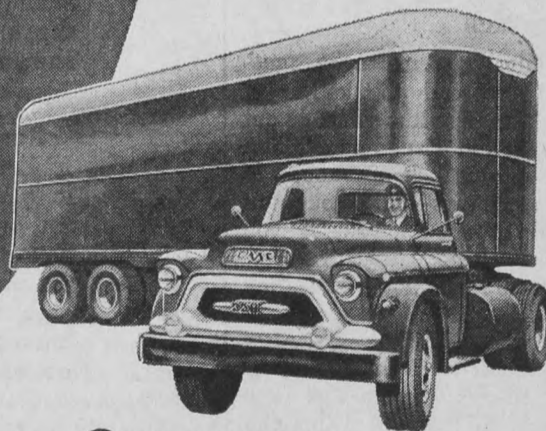
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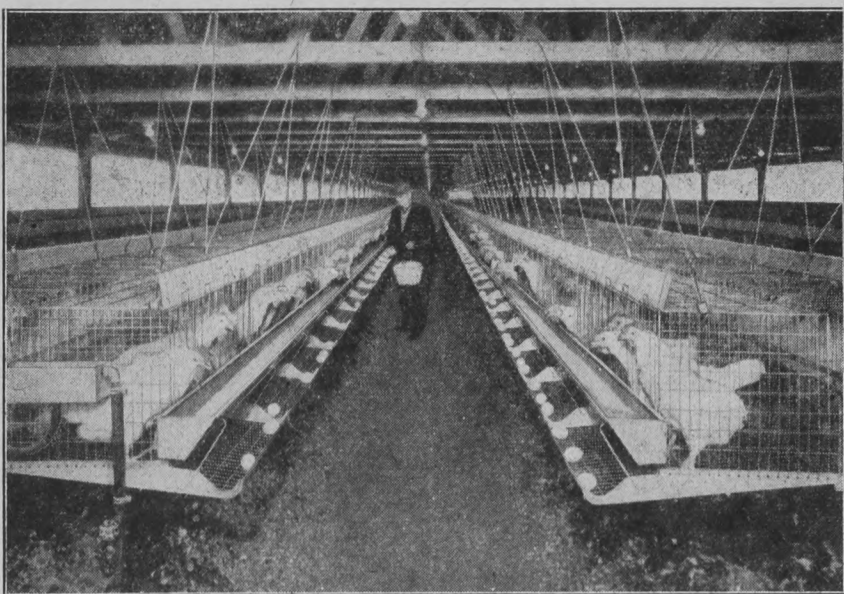


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POULTRY



A typical large installation of the cage-laying type, with cages suspended from overhead rafters.

Caged Layers Winning Approval

Cage laying units now available are easy to install and aid production efficiency

THE cage laying system is becoming more and more popular in the northern sectors of the Eastern and Midwestern United States. Poultrymen there are solving cold weather problems, the removal of droppings, and fly control under conditions similar to those in the southern parts of the Canadian prairies. Difficulties of getting proper ventilation, and ridding poultry houses of moisture when temperatures drop to 20 degrees below zero, have been solved by special attention to laying house insulation, and by installing a series of intake and exhaust fans.

A typical cage layout on an Iowa farm involves a 30 by 240-foot laying house designed to hold about 4,100 birds. The building was insulated with insulation board and fibre glass insulation material. In addition to this, insulated glass windows were installed so the building would be well lighted, and yet suffer a minimum of heat loss. A ventilation system consisting of three thermostatically controlled intake and three exhaust fans, mounted in three separate tube-type ducts, was found to maintain a uniform temperature and keep the air fresh and clean during the coldest weather. When outside temperatures dropped to 17, 19, and 20 degrees below zero last winter, the temperature in this laying house never fell below 48 degrees Fahrenheit. The same ventilation system serves to keep the building fresh and cool in summer.

Easily installed laying cages of an improved design are now being offered by an American equipment company. These are available in units of 48, 24, 12, and six cages, in a choice of eight or ten-inch widths, and are made so they can be suspended from laying house rafters in neat, precision-matched rows. Stainless steel water troughs, which join in perfect alignment so as to allow no high or low spots, can be bought to fit each unit, assuring an even flow of water at all times. The cable suspension sys-

tem is designed to eliminate uneven, swinging cages that would eventually cause leakage in the water troughs. Another new feature of these cages is that the floor slope has been increased to ensure a more positive roll out, less breakage, and easier gathering. Adjustable feed troughs complete the picture to give a neat, sanitary, layout, destined to keep the poultry industry well in the lead of other branches of agriculture in production efficiency. V

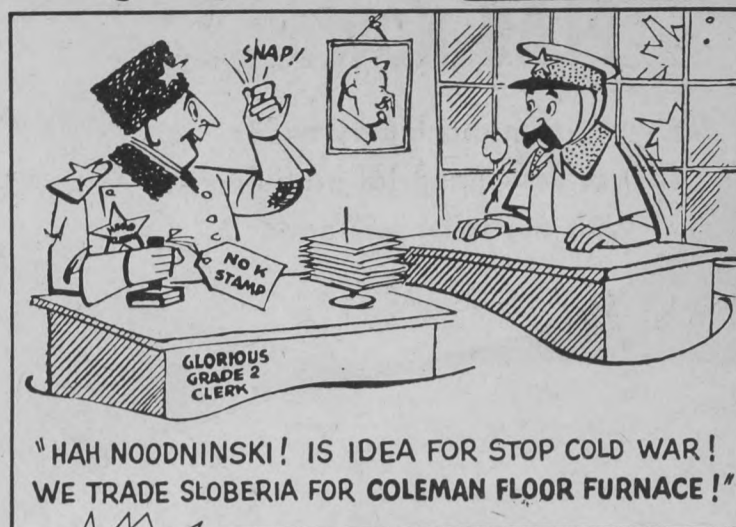
Don't Blame The Feed

HIGH flock mortality, or a serious decline in bird performance is seldom caused by harmful ingredients in feeds, according to C. R. Phillips of the Plant Products Division, Canada Department of Agriculture. When losses occur, poultrymen should submit a few affected birds to a poultry pathologist for laboratory examination because, in nearly all cases, the cause of death is some disease. Some poultry diets may be deficient in vitamins and minerals, and affect the health of the birds, but these health changes don't occur overnight. An observant poultryman will notice them before they reach serious proportions. In some cases a change of feed has been credited with controlling a disease outbreak, when actually the disease has merely run its normal course, and would have done so on the original feed. V

Hatchery Operations

SINCE last October, the monthly Canadian chick hatch has been a good deal below that of a year ago, which would indicate the poultry industry is making adjustments in the face of present market conditions. Both egg producers and poultry meat producers appear to be more conser-

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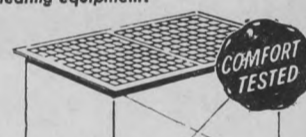
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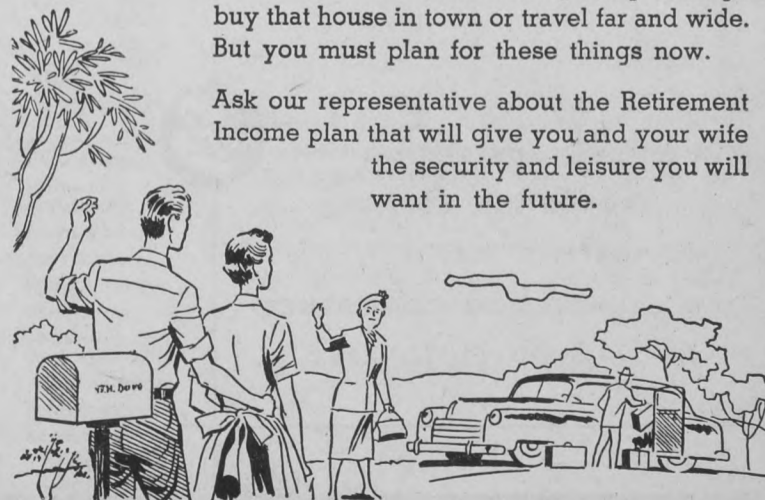
PLANNING TO RETIRE?

As you get older it's not so easy to put in your usual day's work on the farm. The tractor seems harder to manage and those milk cans begin to weigh half a ton.

When this time comes you should take things easy. Perhaps

buy that house in town or travel far and wide. But you must plan for these things now.

Ask our representative about the Retirement Income plan that will give you and your wife the security and leisure you will want in the future.

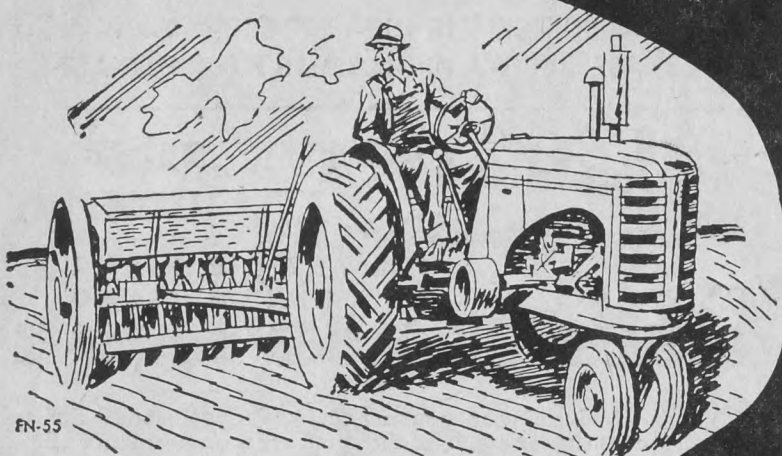
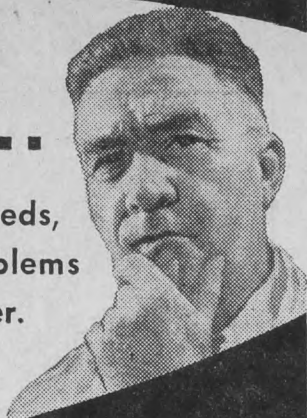


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POULTRY

vative this year in their production programs, resulting in a reduction of 12 to 16 per cent in the number of chicks hatched.

To date, Canadian turkey producers have failed to follow this trend. In the first quarter of this year, there were 12 per cent more poult hatched in registered hatcheries than in the same period a year ago. The large monthly poult hatches are attributed to expansion of the Canadian turkey broiler industry.

In the United States, there has been a considerable reduction in both chick and poult hatchings. For the period January to March this year, there were 18 per cent fewer heavy breed poults, and 34 per cent fewer light breed poults from American hatcheries than for the corresponding period last year. Similarly, the number of chicks hatched for laying flock replacement was 30 per cent smaller, and for broilers, three per cent smaller. The largest reduction in the number of eggs set was in those states which produce most of the chicks for egg production.

Keep Poultry Range Clean

FOWL parasites breed in droppings, litter, and other materials. When pullets are moved from brooder house to range, make sure the latter is clean so there won't be an army of parasites waiting for them.

The ideal situation is a large range sown to grass, clovers, and alfalfa, which has natural shade available. This can be divided into sections so you can practice field rotation. A good plan is to have a three-year rotation, in which each field is cultivated after use and resown to grass before the birds are turned in again. Poultry manure shouldn't be applied to the range at any time.

Overcrowding and colds are other dangers encountered when pullets are moved from brooder house to range. About 300 birds to the acre is right for space. Range shelters should be built so they can be readily moved when grass around them becomes scarce—range hoppers and waterers should be moved regularly too. These should be designed so the feed can't become wet or soiled.

You can cut down on the labor of feeding during the summer and fall months by feeding grain and growing mash or pellets, in hoppers. Growing birds will balance their own ration. You will find that mash consumption increases during molting periods, but consumption of grain increases as the birds gain weight. A clean range and proper feeding will mean good pullets this fall.

Sell Eggs On Grade

IF a flock owner is to obtain enough net profit to make his efforts worth while he should market his eggs on a grade basis, and the flock must average up to 70 per cent egg production, states Lloyd Forness, poultry marketing agent for the North Dakota Extension Service. The break-even point for

feed costs alone is about 50 per cent production, at a market price for eggs of 25 cents per dozen. By giving proper care to eggs so that you realize a high percentage of Grade A, and by providing about four additional pounds of feed a day per 100 hens to get production up to the 70 per cent level, producers should have no trouble netting \$2.25 per bird per year (the present North Dakota average production rate is 47 per cent). On this basis, a 1,000-bird flock should make a net return of \$2,250 a year with little labor, if managed efficiently.

Light or Heavy Breeds

FLOCK owners should consider efficiency when purchasing replacements. What breeds, crosses, or strains, can do the most economical job of converting feed into eggs. This is important because feed represents about 70 per cent of production costs.

At the Brandon Experimental Farm, records on egg production and feed consumption have been kept on light and heavy breed chickens for three years. The heavy breed, which averaged 6.5 pounds in weight at maturity, required 6.5 pounds of feed to produce a dozen eggs, while the light breed, weighing 4.5 pounds, required only 4.7 pounds. At a production rate of 58 per cent, this would mean a 30-pound difference in feed per bird per year—not counting the extra feed needed to raise heavy birds to maturity.

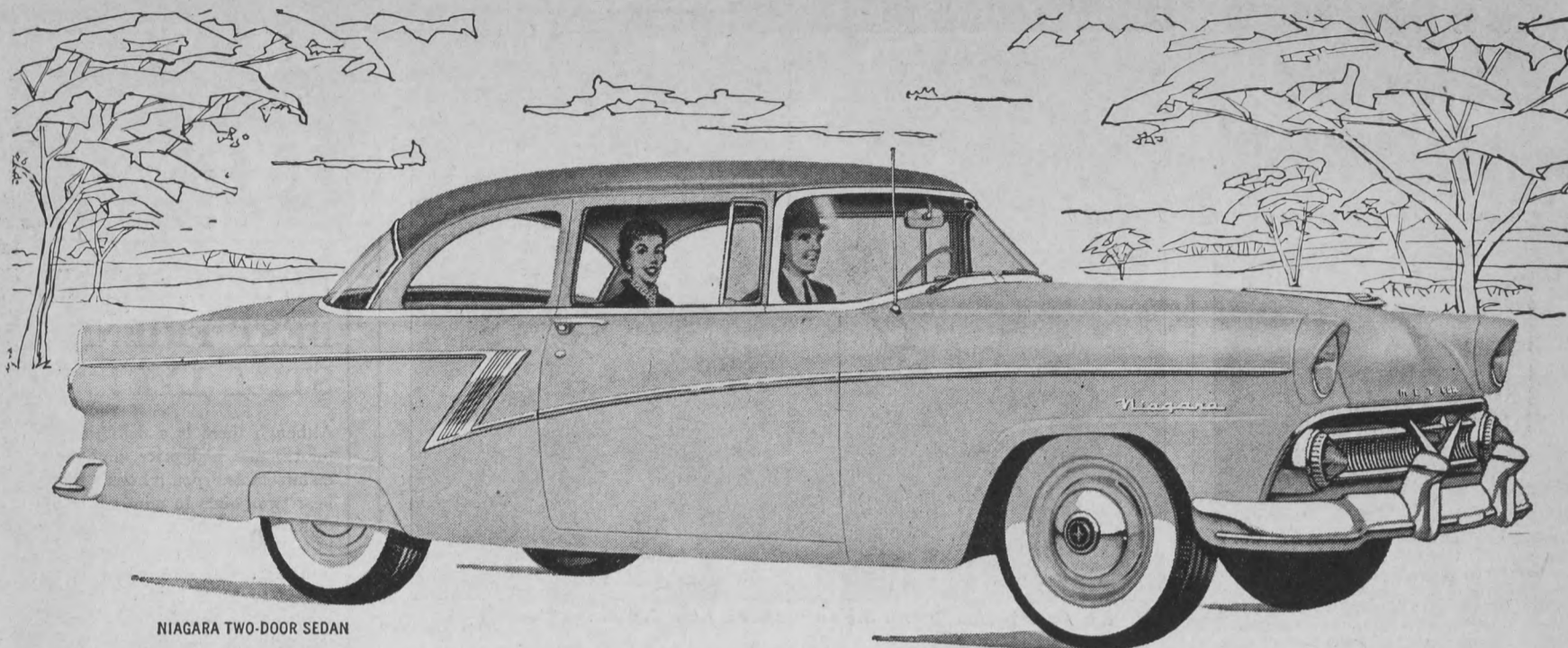
It is true that heavy birds will have more salvage value at the end of the laying year, but it's doubtful if this would compensate for the extra feed costs.

The Trend To Broilers

THE broiler trade is a volume business. Since its modest beginnings in Canada in 1943, it has grown to an estimated annual volume of 15 million birds (1954), and there's still no sign that a peak has been reached. Like a dairy, a broiler business operates on the edge of an urban center, and must be surrounded by high quality, year-round, volume producers. The average farm poultry production program is just not geared to the broiler business.

In the early days, the fledgling broiler trade was threatened by diseases such as coccidiosis—thanks to our poultry scientists, many of these diseases are no longer a threat. One feature of the business is the rapid turnover of stock. In 1947, broilers were ready for market in 13 weeks' time; by last year, this had been reduced to ten weeks. Many enthusiasts believe that by 1960 the trade will produce a three- and a-half pound chicken in seven weeks on seven pounds of good feed.

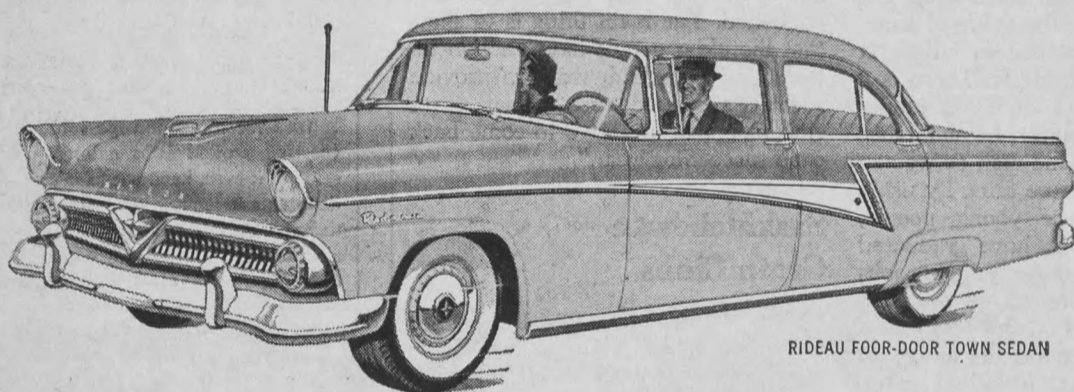
The big challenge facing all sections of the poultry industry today is to devise a workable plan that will limit production to the requirements of home consumption so as to avoid the disastrous price declines that accompany any surplus, even a small one.



NIAGARA TWO-DOOR SEDAN

MORE FOR THE MONEY—THAT'S METEOR!

More beauty outside and in—greater value under the hood!



RIDEAU FOUR-DOOR TOWN SEDAN

ALL-NEW 175 HP. OVERHEAD-VALVE V-8 ENGINE is standard equipment in all Rideau and Niagara models at no added cost. These future styled Rideau and Niagara models are spectacularly colourful cars—available in tri-tone and

two-tone combinations. New ball-joint front wheel suspension gives delightfully easy handling, while angle-poised front springs absorb shocks from the front as well as up-and-down to give an amazingly smooth ride.



COUNTRY SEDAN

SIX-AND EIGHT-PASSENGER STATION WAGONS offer a full measure of Meteor's style-leading beauty combined with convenience that's hard to believe until you see it demonstrated. It takes just three minutes to change a Meteor double-duty model from a passenger

limousine to a hefty half-ton hauler. You have the choice of all-vinyl upholstery and trim, or smart decorator-planned combinations of new woven plastic with colour-matched vinyl that's extra long-wearing and easy to keep clean.

13 beautiful models —
all with entirely new
overhead-valve V-8's
at no added cost!

Compare it any way you like—Meteor offers more for the money! Entirely new body design—longer—lower—wider! Distinctive, all-new styling with spirited youthfulness in every line—matched by the smartest interior beauty in the low price field.

Whether you choose from the Rideau, Niagara, Meteor, or Station Wagon series, at no added cost you get the most modern overhead-valve V-8 engine—a product of the organization that has built more V-8's than all other makers combined—162 Hp. in Meteor models; 175 Hp. in Niagara and Rideau models. All models offer improved Merc-O-Matic Drive*, gas-saving Touch-O-Matic Overdrive*, or standard transmission, and a complete choice of power assists.* With Merc-O-Matic Drive you have the option of a 182 Hp.* V-8 engine.

Take Meteor out and try it for responsiveness, driving ease and comfort. You'll agree there's nothing to match it for the money!

*Optional at extra cost.

Try the **DRIVE** that's miles ahead



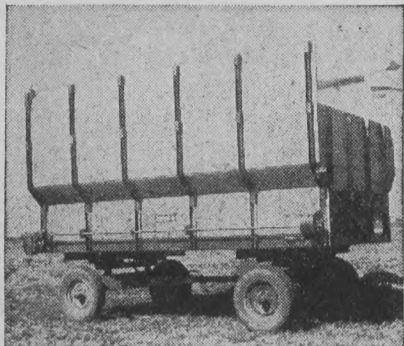
SEE YOUR
METEOR
DEALER

V-8 Meteor

A PRODUCT OF FORD OF CANADA

AN ALL-NEW
OVERHEAD-VALVE V-8
IN EVERY MODEL
AT NO ADDED COST

You'll haul more ...save more with FARMHAND!



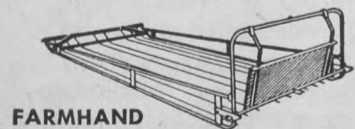
THOSE BIG LOADS that mean less work time, fewer trips to the field, are easier to handle with a Farmhand Forage Unit. The strength and dependability of the 6-ton "Power-Box", combined with the huge capacity—427 bu.—of the high, flared Forage sides make the perfect unit for forage, silage, grain and other bulk materials.



PROVEN PERFORMANCE in harvesting grass silage, hay, straw or corn... that's the George White Forage Harvester. It's Canadian-built for Western farmers, and priced below most competitive machines. You get your choice of power by engine or PTO. Ask your Farmhand dealer, now about this low-cost forage harvester.



THE NEW FEED-HAND by Farmhand speeds up and makes easier your feeding and hauling jobs. It eliminates most of the hand labor now necessary for feed and grain handling. The Feed-Hand's big capacity, high discharge rate and complete range of unloading positions make the Feed-Hand a unit you should investigate.



**FARMHAND
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BUNCHER**

Cuts pick-up costs 35%. Collects 5 to 7 bales—trips from tractor seat.



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- ☐ Feed-Hand by Farmhand
- ☐ George White Forage Harvester

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FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



Everyone is glad to "hit the hay" after a hard day in the show ring.

Young People Enjoy the Fairs

Youth clubs have won a place on the fair circuits and turn out first class judges

IN a speech earlier this year to the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, Jim Moore, secretary-manager of the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs, pointed out the value of using young men and women as judges at various fairs and contests. There is a definite shortage of qualified judges in most of the provinces, he maintains, and we often find one man or woman judging at ten or more fairs. By using the abilities of our young people, especially those who have graduated from 4-H work, these judging jobs could be spread around to good advantage. The 4-H club work is a natural training ground for judges in all display sections, including grain, livestock, poultry, and ladies' work, as well as the 4-H classes themselves. Appointing young people as judges is also a good way to build up a fair, because it stimulates interest among younger members of the community.

Another interesting point brought out by the 4-H leader, was the increasing number of separate buildings being provided for club use at fairs by agricultural societies. At Sherbrooke, Quebec, there is a large two-storey building which has accommodation on the first floor for club calves, and sleeping and eating facilities and an auditorium, on the one above. At Brandon, Manitoba, an exhibition building was converted three years ago for the exclusive use of 4-H clubs, and many other fairs provide the same service. This is a far cry from earlier days in the organization when show space had to be found among the other exhibits, and even personal accommodation for competing members was often hard to find.

"This all brings to mind the days when I was enrolled in 4-H work myself," Jim Moore recalled, "exhibiting my calf and pair of pigs each year at the Peterborough Industrial Exhibition. We were very pleased that the fair association always provided a large tent in which 4-H livestock entries were to be housed for two days.

"As a matter of fact, costly, elaborate buildings are still not required—tents, or even separate sections in one of the larger buildings are all that is needed. The main thing is to show that the older people have enough interest in youth club work to provide special accommodation. That gives club members incentive to come back each succeeding year."

Saskatchewan Grain Clubs

THE number of young people enrolled in 4-H clubs in Saskatchewan last year reached an all-time high of 9,847. This is the second highest enrollment in Canada, surpassed only by Ontario. But it still represents a mere ten per cent of those in the province who are eligible to be 4-H members.

Said 4-H Club Supervisor H. R. Clark, "We still have a long way to go."

As could be expected, the largest project enrollment in the Wheat Province was registered by the grain clubs, who showed a total of 3,931 members; next in line was the beef clubs, with a total of 3,212 members.

One interesting feature that has developed over the past two years, is the change in varieties of wheat grown by Saskatchewan 4-H seed clubs. While over 90 per cent of them grew Thatcher wheat in 1953, last year the number growing this variety dropped to 60 per cent. In all, 62 clubs grew Selkirk wheat last year, and 34 clubs grew Chinook.

Of the 23 Saskatchewan clubs that grew oats, 15 chose Exeter, five Fortune, and three Rodney. Five different varieties of barley were grown; these were Compana, Vantage, Montcalm, Hannchen, and Husky. Redwing was the only variety of flax grown, and this by just one club. In all, the 4-H grain clubs grew 13 different grain varieties, yielding a total of 135,400 bushels of quality seed.

USE
GILLETT'S
100% PURE
LYE



POULTRYMAN'S BEST FRIEND STILL LYE!

Although there is a definite place for the new high-price, high-power disinfectants, poultrymen should bear two points in mind: First, no disinfectant, however powerful, can kill unless it can reach the trouble source. Second, no method has yet proved to be as effective in maintaining flock health as regular and thorough lye cleaning.

LYE DOES MANY JOBS

Lye is at once the cheapest and most effective cleaning and sanitizing agent for all poultry equipment. It cuts through grease extremely fast, removes dirt, and also sanitizes and deodorizes. (Poultry are often irritated by strong smells). It is highly effective against the germs of Coccidiosis, Laryngotracheitis, Infectious Bronchitis, Pullorum, Fowl Cholera, Bacillary White Diarrhoea of young chicks, and roundworm eggs.

USE LYE REGULARLY

The poultryman who cleans regularly with recommended lye solutions (costing around 1¢ a gallon) will seldom, if ever, have need for costly disinfectants, nor will he suffer loss through culls, food waste, disease and death.

GLF-23

USE
GILLETT'S
100% PURE
LYE



Alberta's Largest Hatchery

STEWART'S
R. O. P.
SIRED **CHICKS**

Turkey Poults - Ducklings - Goslings

LOWER 1955 PRICES

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

Day-old and started chicks, Turkey Poults, Ducklings and Goslings.

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As Sure As "Shootin" Eggs Are Going Up

Order your chicks now. For maximum egg production on the minimum amount of feed, be sure and buy any one of our three special egg breeds. They lay more eggs on less feed than any other breeds we offer. Also three special broiler breeds—1st generation Indian River Cross, Arbor Acres White Rock, Nichols New Hamp. Turkey poults. Be sure and get our 1955 catalogue. It tells you all about these special breeds.

Tweddle Chick Hatcheries Limited
FERGUS, ONTARIO

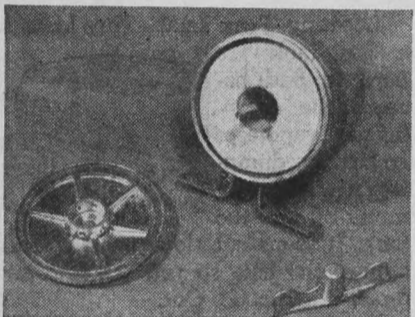
WHAT'S NEW



This vibration-proof back rest unit is said to be easily and quickly attached to all tractor seat pans. Constructed of welded steel tubing, it retains its alignment. A one-inch, rubberized-hair pad is suspended from the frame. (Walter-Jacques Associates.) (82) ✓



According to the manufacturer, this low-priced, 180-amp. welder is designed for farm use. Ten heats are available for soldering, brazing, welding and cutting. (L. Krushel and Sons.) (83) ✓



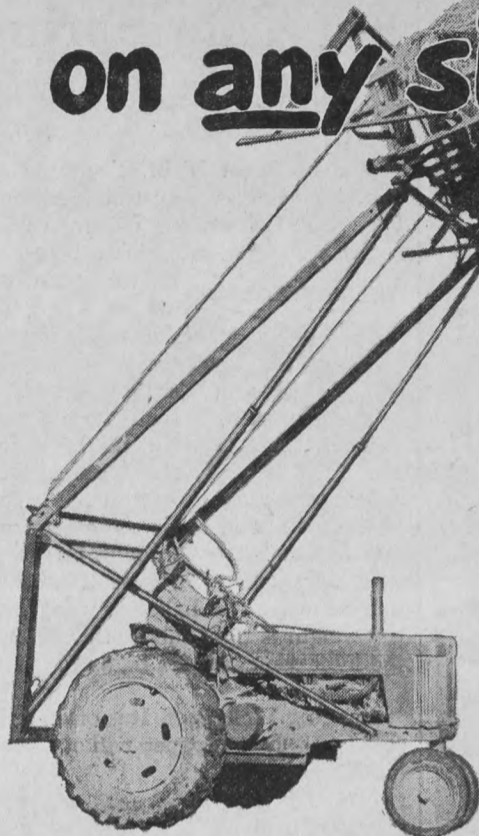
This oil filter can be used on all kinds of pressure oil system trucks, cars and tractors, says the manufacturer. A roll of toilet paper is used as a filter cartridge. It is claimed to filter so effectively that heavy duty oil users never have to change their oil. (Anerone Company, Ltd.) (84) ✓



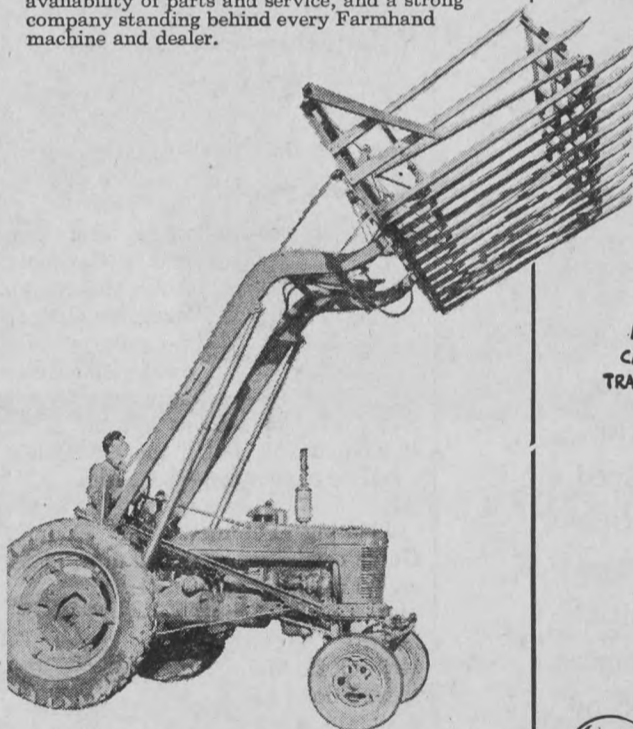
This new steel and aluminum 75-bushel box will handle ground feeds, small grains, finely chopped hay and mixed feeds. The 7-foot, vertical auger will unload at heights up to 8½ feet. It is said to be designed for filling hog and poultry self-feeders, cattle and sheep bunks, or for hauling and unloading grain or feed. (Farmhand Company.) (85) ✓

For further information about any item mentioned in this column, write to What's New Department, The Country Guide, 290 Vaughan St., Winnipeg 2, giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as—(17).

FARMHAND cuts haying costs on any size operation!



FARMHAND HI-LIFT LOADER—With its 3500-lb. lift capacity, 21 ft. reach, unmatched durability and year-round usefulness, the Farmhand will quickly pay for itself in time and labor savings. That's why more farmers in top hay areas own Farmhands than all other loaders combined. You get longer loader life, higher trade-in values, constant availability of parts and service, and a strong company standing behind every Farmhand machine and dealer.



FARMHAND UNIVERSAL LOADER—Now, with its new Hay Basket and hydraulic Push-Off, the Universal sweeps and stacks with "big operation" efficiency. The Universal is a rugged, low clearance loader for both wide front and row crop tractors. 2500-lb. lift—stacks to 16 ft. Also has 14 cu. ft. Manure Bucket, 21 cu. ft. Scoop.

Now, your choice of steel or wood teeth!

8' or 9' tubular steel teeth. Tapered from 2 7/8" diam. to 1 3/8" at point.

7', 8' or 9' Douglas fir teeth. Vernox seal-treated.

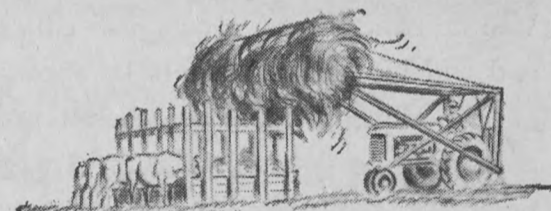
Here's the cheapest, easiest haying method ever developed!



SWEEP AND STACK UP TO 50 ACRES A DAY WITH THE FARMHAND HEAVY-DUTY LOADER. GET HAY OFF THE FIELD FAST TO AVOID WEATHER DAMAGE. NO EXPENSIVE MANUAL HANDLING.



MOVE WHOLE STACKS OR CUT THEM AND MOVE IN SECTIONS. THE CABLE AND WINCH SLIDES STACK ONTO STACK MOVER. HAUL STACKS AT TRACTOR SPEEDS, RIGHT TO FEED LOT OR DRY STORAGE. NO "PIECE WORK" HANDLING HERE!



FEED WITH THE FARMHAND'S GRAPPLE FORK ATTACHMENT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR, EVEN WHEN STACKS ARE FROZEN. NO PITCHING OR CARRYING, TRACTOR POWER DOES THE WORK.



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WORKSHOP

Workshop Helps
For Late Spring

With spring work over busy farmers can begin on workshop chores that have piled up

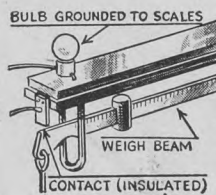


*"He's my very own,
isn't he, Dad?"*

You can probably imagine your boy in this situation, or recall it if he already has a dog of his own. He deserves the things that make him a happy youngster. But, are you taking steps now to ensure his happiness later on? Will he benefit from a complete education, and will his natural talents be encouraged and developed? These are the things that mean happiness and security to a grown boy, but they also mean a substantial financial outlay for his parents. If you open a Savings Account at Imperial Bank of Canada, and save regularly, you'll have the money later to provide these essentials for your child. Save today and you will be making sure he will have everything a boy—and his Dad—could wish for.

IMPERIAL
"the bank that service built"

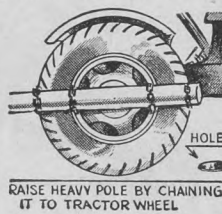
Weight Beam Light. I've used so many good ideas from the Workshop Page that I'm sending one in, writes a Saskatchewan subscriber. I sack a lot of grain on my scales, in which I bring all the sacks to the same weight. The scale is low and it's hard to see the beam so I grounded a six-volt light to the frame of the scales and made the other contact to the battery through the light with a copper wire that the beam touches when it is half way up. When the weight is right the beam lifts and the light comes on.—N.B., Sask. ✓



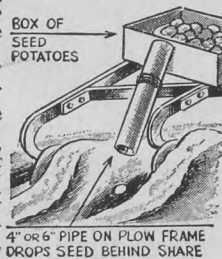
Hanging Wallpaper. It is often difficult to apply wallpaper without leaving air pockets between the paper and the wall. I have found a paint roller very useful for avoiding this. I move the roller back and forth across the paper as I put it on and soon push out all the pockets of air.—S.B., Sask. ✓



Erecting Poles. Recently I was confronted with the problem of erecting three 30-foot electrification poles alone. I placed the pole butt about four feet from the hole, drove the tractor alongside, chained the pole as illustrated, and drove the tractor forward so that the pole was above the hole as it came erect. It worked fine, but if the pole fell it could be dangerous.—V.A., Alta. ✓



Planting Potatoes. The Country Guide carries many useful farm ideas, and I'm sending one that I've found useful, writes P.K., Manitoba. I don't have a potato planter, so I tie a piece of pipe, four to six inches in diameter, to the plow frame, put potatoes in a box on the plow, and drop the seed through the pipe so it falls just behind the share. One man can keep up with a plow. ✓



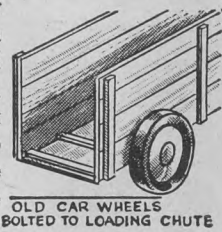
Emergency Bicycle Tube. If you are caught short and have no tube for a bicycle, cut a length of rubber garden hose and put it inside an old bicycle tire and put the tire back on. I have found it will do.—W.B.G., Alta. ✓



Stair Sawhorse. Space is limited in my basement and I wanted a sawhorse. I made a good one by nailing two cleats, 20 by 2 by 1 inch, on each side of the stairway, as illustrated.—R.L.C., Ont. ✓



Moving Loading Chute. By putting a car rear axle, housing and wheels under the front, or heavy part, of a loading chute and bolting it in place, the entrance part can be picked up and the chute moved easily, like a wheel barrow. It makes moving the loading chute a one-man job, but be sure to block the wheels when the outfit is in use.—J.I.R. ✓



Locating Tank Leak. Tiny leaks in a gas tank are hard to find because the escaping gas evaporates so fast. Try dumping a quart of motor oil into the tank. It seeps out slowly and spreads around the hole so you can find and repair it.—R.L.C., Ont. ✓



Holding Small Parts. I use thick grease to hold small screws to the end of the screw driver in those hard-to-get-at places. It can also be used when assembling small parts, such as valve collets, loose balls in ball bearing cages, and the like.—O.T., Man. ✓

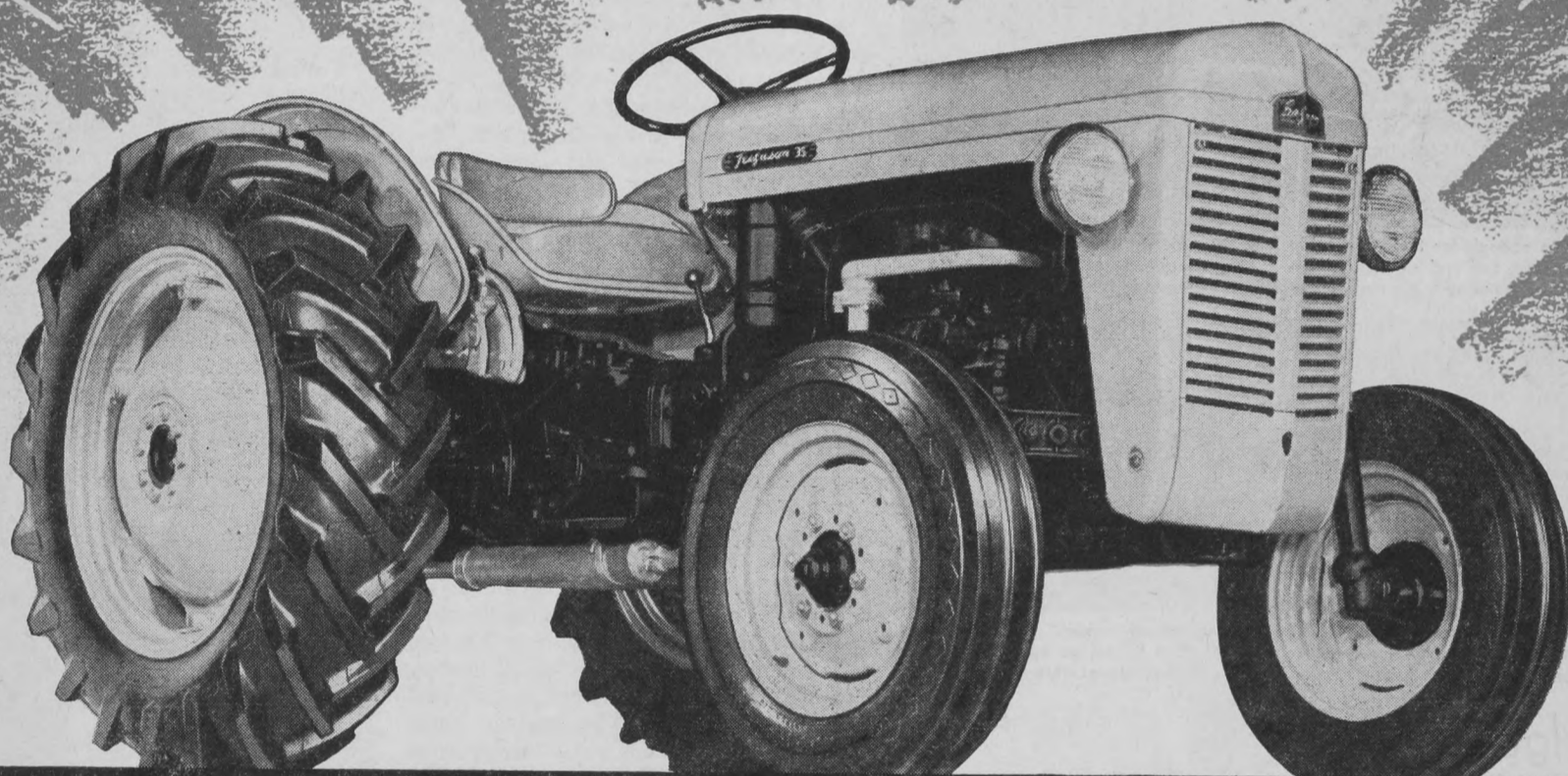


Cleaning Small Containers. Bottles or other small containers used in the workshop can be cleaned by placing a small amount of gravel and water or solvent in the bottle and shaking it. The gravel will cut loose hard sediment, and then it can be readily flushed out.—O.T., Man. ✓



Machines Beat Muscles. Have you ever considered the cost of doing a job by hand that could be readily done by machine? The writer remembers with pride unloading a 40-ton car of coal in one 10-hour day, a job for which he was paid \$5. The day's work amounted to 640,000 foot-pounds, so earnings were one cent for 1,280 foot pounds of labor. A hoist manufacturer claims his hoist will lift 100 pounds to a height of 1,000 feet for one cent—100,000 foot pounds for a penny. Dividing 100,000 by 1,280, in this case human labor is 78 times as costly as fuel energy. The true worth of unloading that car of coal, in these terms, would not be \$5, but would be 6.4 cents.—W.F.S. ✓

Announcing The **ALL NEW** **FERGUSON 35**



**More power, more control,
more weight, more comfort**

Here's the biggest news since modern farming took a giant forward step with the first Ferguson tractor!

Now Ferguson brings you a completely new and vastly improved tractor, the Ferguson 35. It's new under the hood, new in its method of implement control, new even in the smart, two-tone paint job. It's longer, heavier, and far more powerful.

The 35 brings you greater range, greater selectivity of implement control. Its engine has been redesigned to give high torque at low engine speed. This guarantees lugging power without surging or racing, less stalling from overloads, horsepower to spare for really tough jobs.

From the spacing of the rear wheels (48 to 76 inches) and the extra large, truck-type brakes to the new "Tractormeter" dial and "Foam Float" Seat, the new Ferguson 35 is truly an engineering triumph. You'll find it a wonder to drive . . . a real profit-builder to own.

**New exclusive 4-way work control
transforms power into profits!**



1. New Hydraulic System with Quadramatic Control for Lift control, double-acting Draft control, Response control and Position control. Guarantees far greater accuracy for plowing, discing, cultivating.



3. 2-Stage Clutching controls tractor movement and live PTO with a single foot pedal. Pressing pedal half way down (you can feel when you're there) disengages transmission. All the way down stops both tractor and PTO.



2. Dual-Range Transmission provides six forward speeds, two reverse; fits tractor speed exactly to the work. Low range for harvesting, plowing, sub-soiling. High range (up to 14 mph) for light jobs or highway travel.

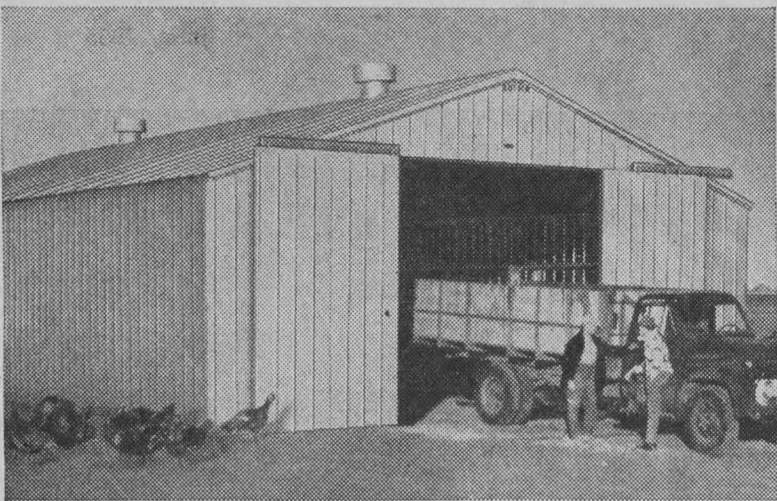


4. Variable Drive PTO provides drives in ratio to tractor ground speed, or to tractor engine speed. Synchronize with engine for harvesting, with ground speed for jobs like raking.

Massey-Harris-Ferguson
TORONTO, CANADA LIMITED

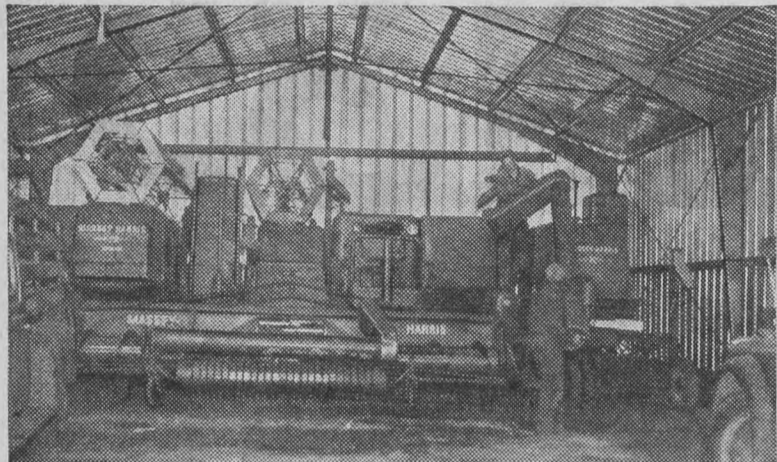
● This feature is furnished monthly
by United Grain Growers Limited

MONTHLY



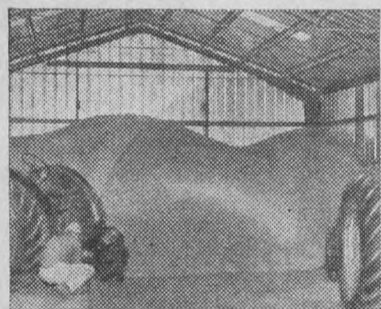
"Three of us put up my Butler steel building in less than a week, with no trouble at all," says Gustav Paulgaard of Provost, Al-

berta. Wide, roomy sliding doors make it easy to move big farm machines and Mr. Paulgaard's truck in and out.

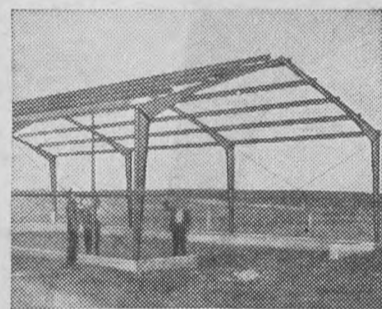


There's room enough for three big, wide combines across one end of Oscar Paulgaard's Butler building near Hayter, Al-

berta—plenty of room for all his farm equipment and his two motor trucks. There's no waste space in a Butler.



Gustav Paulgaard stores both wheat and farm machinery in his Butler building. No bulging or bending where grain is stored.



Modern "barn raisin" on the prairie. Butler rigid frames go up fast on a concrete foundation at Palmer Paulgaard's.

Paulgaards buy 3 BUTLER steel buildings "on sight" at Lloydminster Fair

When Gustav Paulgaard, Provost, Alberta, saw the 36 x 60-ft. Butler building at the Lloydminster fair last summer, he decided he wanted one just like it. A few days later he bought one for grain and machinery storage. When his sons Oscar and Palmer saw it, they, too, decided a Butler building was just what they needed.

See your nearby Butler Builder. Ask him for your free copy of Butler's new catalog: "New Uses for Butler Steel Buildings."

Now there's a Butler building on each of the three Paulgaard farms. Each building was put up by the Paulgaards, with the help of hired men. Father and sons are well pleased with this investment in lifetime, all-steel, fire-safe, wind and weather-safe construction. There's no warping, twisting or dry rot, no need to paint or reroof.

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Steel Building Sales and Service Calgary Phone: 30009	Steel Structures (Western) Limited Winnipeg Phone: 42-3123	Ontario Barnett-McQueen Co., Ltd. P. O. Box 39 Fort William Phone: 20648	Western Tractor & Equipment Company Ltd. 1540—10th Avenue Regina—Phone: 34641
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Final Payment on 1953-54 Wheat Pool

The closing out date and other details pertaining to the 1953-54 wheat pool were announced in the House of Commons by Trade Minister C. D. Howe on May 16. Cheques totalling \$25,411,407 were expected to go out to prairie wheat producers before the end of the month.

On producers' deliveries of 398 million bushels the average payment amounts to 6.384 cents per bushel. The final net payments to producers on the principal grades are as follows:

	Cents per Bushel
No. 1 Northern	6.262
No. 2 Northern	4.771
No. 3 Northern	5.333
No. 4 Northern	8.383
No. 5 Northern	10.715
No. 6 Northern	13.303
Feed Wheat	16.459

The net price realized by producers prior to deduction of the one per cent P.F.A.A. levy basis No. 1 Northern in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver amounts to \$1.56426 per bushel.

The Durum wheat situation continued very strong throughout the 1953-54 crop year and again during the first part of the current crop year. Final payments on the principal grades of Durum wheat were reported as follows:

	Cents per Bushel
No. 1 Amber Durum	51.987
No. 2 Amber Durum	52.307
No. 3 Amber Durum	56.427
No. 4 Amber Durum	55.063
No. 5 Amber Durum	19.159
No. 6 Amber Durum	21.139

The net price realized by producers prior to deduction of the P.F.A.A. levy basis No. 1 Amber Durum will be \$2.12613 per bushel.

The Trade Minister announced that final payments would be made on grades of wheat which did not participate in the interim payment last fall. Examples of these are No. 2 Garnet, No. 2 Alberta Winters and No. 2 C.W. Soft White Springs on which the final payment per bushel will be 5.105 cents, 3.002 cents and 13.798 cents respectively.

From the standpoint of a marketing operation, the Minister said, the 1953-54 pool period was the most difficult in the postwar history of the wheat board. He designated four major factors contributing to these difficulties, the first of which was the substantial carryover stocks resulting from a series of three bumper crops. Sales from the 1953-54 pool could not begin until the stocks from the previous pool were "reduced to reasonable proportions" and actual sales from this pool did not commence until February 1, 1954. The pool was not closed out until April 29, 1955.

Secondly, he pointed to the falling off of world demand for wheat and wheat flour in the 1953-54 crop year during which year Canada's wheat exports were 255 million bushels compared with 385 million bushels in the preceding crop year. Thirdly, increased competition in the world's markets during the first nine months of the present crop year was cited. Fourthly, the Minister referred to "the triple-barrelled surplus disposal program" in effect in the United States. "As at the end of March," he stated, "the United States had increased their

exports of wheat and flour by over 60 million bushels compared with the previous crop year, and the increase will undoubtedly be larger by the end of the crop year. The wheat board and the government," he added, "expect and are fully prepared to deal with competition in the world's wheat markets."

The wheat board's average selling price for No. 1 Northern wheat in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver was approximately \$1.73 per bushel during the 1953-54 pool period as contrasted with \$1.90 per bushel during the previous pool. The lower level of board selling prices was reflected in the prices which producers received for their deliveries to the 1953-54 pool. The drop in the prices received by producers was attributed to the decline in the board's selling prices and to increased carrying charges due to the extended period in which the pool was in operation.

Statistical Grain Summary

Overseas clearances and domestic utilization of Canadian grains as at May 11, continued to show some improvement over the situation prevailing at the same date last year, according to figures released by the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada. United States imports of Canadian grains for domestic use or milling in bond are of course down appreciably and more than offset any gains made in the export and domestic markets.

Total wheat disappearance is up by approximately 8.5 million bushels over last year, but U.S. imports of Canadian coarse grains have been cut to less than one-third of that shown by last year's records at this date.

Overseas clearances of the principal grains, in millions of bushels with last year's figures in brackets were as follows: Wheat, 162.5 (153.0); oats, 4.7 (3.1); barley, 39.8 (43.4); rye, 3.6 (0.5); and flax, 4.5 (4.4). Total overseas clearances of all grains to May 11, 1955, were 215.1 million bushels and compared with 204.4 million bushels during the comparable period of the previous crop year.

Typical of the statistical position in recent weeks has been the decline in visible supplies of Canadian grains with only stocks of rye remaining appreciably above last year's level at mid-May. Visible supplies of the five principal grains in all positions totalled 409.7 million bushels at May 11, compared with 434.4 million bushels at the same date a year ago. These supplies, in millions of bushels, were divided between principal grains with last year's figures in brackets as follows: Wheat, 323.1 (345.4); oats, 23.6 (30.8); barley, 50.5 (49.8); rye, 9.7 (6.1), and flaxseed, 2.8 (2.3).

Wheat Production Under Price Support

According to a recent study conducted by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, over 96 per cent of the world's wheat crop is produced and marketed under some form of price supports or official incentive and planning.

The objective of most price support policies is the maintenance of producer prices at levels higher than

COMMENTARY

would be the case without price supports. "In importing countries," states the report, "the primary objective is to stimulate increased production partly because of a desire for a greater degree of national self-sufficiency and partly because of inability to finance purchases of supplementary supplies from abroad as the result of foreign exchange and other difficulties." In order to resolve or decrease the impact of these difficulties importing countries have adopted measures to regulate imports and subsidize consumers. Measures include import quotas, tariffs, compulsory utilization of fixed quantities of home grown grain, subsidies to local flour millers and control over bread prices.

Wheat exporting countries, on the other hand, have developed policies designed to increase the sale of surpluses abroad at the same time assuring growers that the returns from such sales will be maintained at or above the minimum guaranteed price for the year's crop.

Methods of implementing price support policies are many and varied including fixed prices, government purchases, guaranteed price ranges, deficiency payments, indirect price supports, directional price programs and pre-contracts. A system of guaranteed minimum prices is employed by each of the major exporters — Argentina, Australia, Canada and the United States.

The price support programs as implemented in Canada and the United States are too well known to require explanation. In Argentina a government monopoly not only guarantees a minimum price of 50 pesos per quintal (\$2.72 per bushel basis U.S. funds) for No. 2, semi-hard wheat, f.o.r. ports, but exercises complete control over the purchase and sale of the crop in both the domestic and the export market. The export trade is handled on a strictly barter basis, frequently at prices substantially below the price paid to producers. The report states that frequently, part, if not all of the loss is offset by governmental action in fixing the rates of exchange applying to payment for various goods and services imported under government contract.

In Australia, the Wheat Stabilization Board guarantees growers a minimum advance or initial price as in Canada, but this initial price is based on an estimated cost of production currently set at \$1.41 per bushel, basis fair average quality grain f.o.r. at ports of export. Growers may receive additional payments during or at the end of the season based on profits made by the Board in the domestic and export markets.

An innovation in force in Australia is a tax of 16 cents a bushel on exports whenever the export price exceeds the guaranteed minimum by 16 cents a bushel or more, or by that portion of 16 cents by which the export price exceeds the guaranteed minimum when the excess is less than 16 cents a bushel. Collections under this provision are placed in a so-called Stabilization Fund where they are drawn upon whenever export returns fall below the guaranteed minimum price. However, the maximum price is

limited to a maximum export of 100 million bushels. Should the Stabilization Fund become exhausted, the Commonwealth Treasury covers the obligations of the guaranteed price.

A system of fixed producer prices is in effect in a considerable number of countries including Austria, Brazil, Chile, Finland, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, France and Uruguay. Under this system the producer obtains a definite, specified price for wheat of prescribed quality and delivered to a specified delivery point.

Directional price programs are used only by Belgium and the Netherlands at the present time. Under this method, a so-called "aimed at" or "guide" price is provided for wheat deliveries of specified quality.

The theory of deficiency payments to agriculture as a form of prices support has been advanced by the economists on this continent but the only nation testing this today is the United Kingdom. Producer prices are guaranteed through the application of a Deficiency Payments Scheme inaugurated with the 1954 crop. The market is allowed to operate freely but if the average market price received by producers during any given season falls below a specified support level direct payments are made by the government to cover the difference. The principal stipulation of eligibility for payment is that the wheat must actually be sold to a miller.

Countries of the Soviet Bloc and Red China also operate various programs designed to stimulate wheat production and to regulate wheat prices and trade. However, the price role is secondary to state planning and growers can realize an open market price for wheat only to the extent that they can sell directly to a consumer.

In summarizing the effects of this wide range of wheat price support policies the authors of the Report state:

Over the years, action by any nation to maintain producer prices for homegrown wheat at artificial levels has meant higher prices for its own consumers and higher prices for the wheat it moves into export channels, unless those effects are offset by subsidies to the consuming and exporting interests concerned. In both deficit and surplus producing countries, the operation of programs to implement price support policies usually involves a heavy financial burden. The record also shows that artificial price maintenance policies not only tend to interrupt normal trade flows by encouraging uneconomic production, but also tend to bring about overproduction and underconsumption.

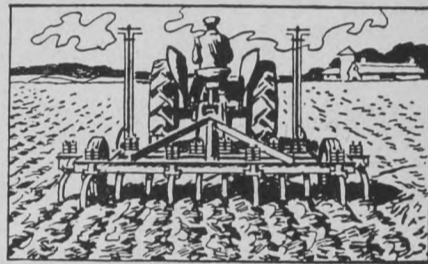
Finally, action on the part of any nation, whether a wheat importer or an exporter, to maintain producer prices for its growers at artificial levels sooner or later forces other importing and exporting countries to adopt compensatory measures. Caught in a chain of circumstances over which no one individual nation has much, if any, control, all wheat producing countries eventually find themselves compelled to protect their growers by one device or another. Once actively underway, the cumulative effect of supports and counter-supports, aids, and counter-aids, trade restrictions and counter-restrictions, is to bring about extremely serious disturbances to the world's wheat production, marketing and price structure. ✓



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This coverage takes a big load of worry off Joe's mind. Especially the group life insurance — which adds extra dollars for his family's protection over and above the life insurance he has provided on his own.

Joe's experience is like that of thousands of workers in many different businesses throughout the country. Group insurance, little known 25 years ago, has developed rapidly because it meets such a vital need. It has met this need so successfully that last year, Canadians received a total of about 90 million dollars in group benefits from life insurance companies.

Here is more evidence that life insurance companies, and their representatives, are constantly seeking new and better ways to serve the needs of Canadians in all walks of life!

THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA

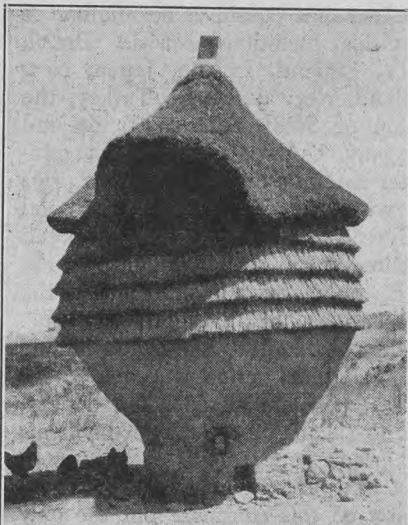
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L-355C

Farm Storage In Mexico

Other lands, other customs! A picture story of some ancient-type Mexican granaries

by EMIL ZUBRYN



Close-up showing granary ventilation and protection from weather.



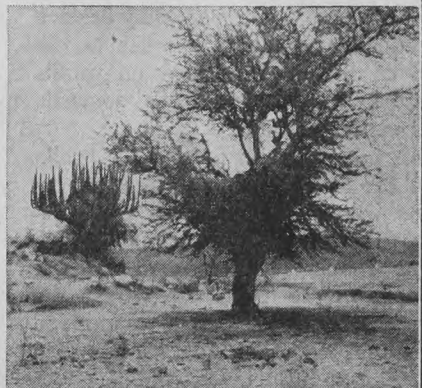
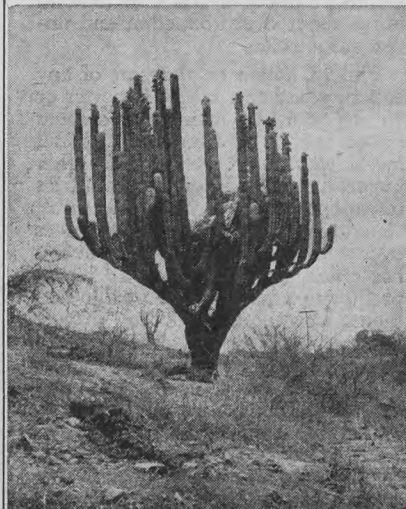
Adobe, cement, cornstalks and custom leave little room for new ideas.



The tin can atop this one, to keep off rain, gives it a special Mexican touch.



Good crops mean a second granary. Note framework, at right, to be thatched with cornstalks.



Nature provides these storage lofts free of charge, for Chiautla farmers.

Left: This cactus provides storage for dried cornstalks and costs nothing.

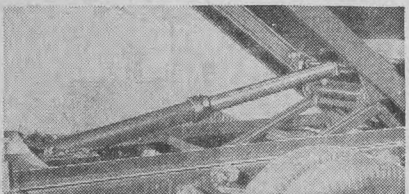
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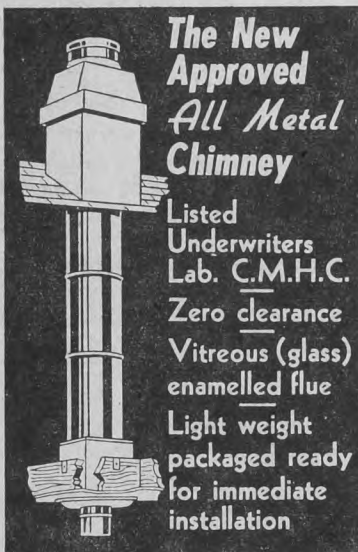
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high returns to this wholesale egg business



Eggs are cleaned, candled, graded, and cartoned in this "pint-sized" egg room. Some of Abe Regehr's 2,000 Leghorns in 30'x72' plywood-lined poultry house.

ABE REGEHR, Jr., worked on a good Calgary district poultry farm for a couple of years, and then, armed with plenty of experience and good ideas, persuaded his dad, A. L. Regehr, Linden, Alberta, to invest \$5,000 in a poultry house. It looks like one of the most promising attempts seen so far in an area where so many are looking for ways to escape hail losses. For eight years out of 12, the Regehrs, with their neighbors, have watched likely looking crops smashed to the ground in the icy storms.

The building is in its second year now, a two-storey insulated frame and clapboard building lined with plywood. It has a flat roof, with overhanging eaves, and ventilating shafts at either end. Abe plans to install some system of forced ventilation, to help keep it fresh in really cold weather. Water under pressure is always before the birds; community nests are used—although he is almost convinced it would pay to go back to individual ones—deep litter and dropping boards under the roosts complete the picture.

The new building measures 30 by 72 feet with a 30 by 60-foot pen on each floor. The remaining 12 feet on the ground floor are given over to egg handling, and the corresponding space upstairs, to feed storage. Attached to it is the old hen house, a double-decker too, with pens 20 by 40 feet. The entire layout holds 2,000 Leghorns comfortably. When in full operation, it keeps Abe Regehr, Jr., who devotes full time to the flock, busy enough. But he's an ambitious poultry enthusiast, determined like his Menonite parents and neighbors. He calls it, "not work, but an opportunity."

With this sizable flock in full winter production, the tiny egg room takes on special significance: it is the Regehrs' answer to today's much criticized marketing system. Abe cleans, candles, and grades, and packs the eggs in cartons carrying his own name. They are shipped twice a week to a Calgary chain store; and they travel on the milk truck, at a cost of only a cent a dozen. By providing this special service, the Regehrs come within eight or nine cents of retail price.

Attention to every detail is the secret of this business. First of all,

production must be high and constant to meet the special demand; and quality must be tops, to maintain it.

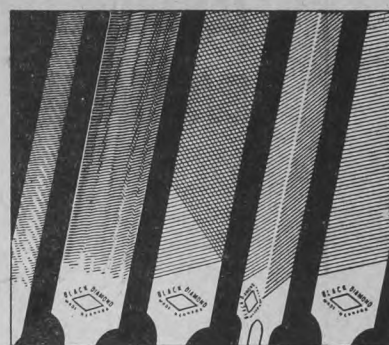
Chicks go into the brooders April 1. Later they go out to good alfalfa pasture, and in late summer a pen of old hens is moved out to make way for the first pullets. The Regehrs kill and dress their own birds as they move them out of the laying pens, and they sell them through the same chain store. Before long the entire pullet flock is in the laying house.

Day begins at 6:30 for the flock, when the hoppers are refilled with laying mash. The mash is mixed at a local feed mill from home-grown or purchased ground oats, barley and wheat, and a laying concentrate. At the same time in the morning, grain troughs are filled with oats.

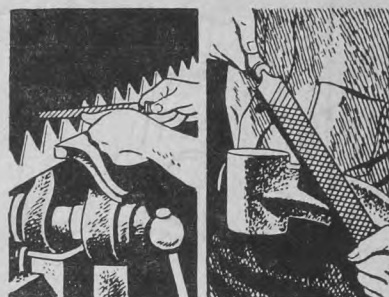
At 11:30 the birds are given a green, pelleted 19-per-cent-protein laying mash that is very high in dehydrated cereal grass. This serves as a tonic and conditioner, while a feed of wheat is thrown on the floor as a scratch grain at 5:30. If the hoppers are low in laying mash at this time, they are filled again. In the winter evenings, lights stretch the day to keep the birds at full production.

Eggs are gathered five times during the day, starting at 8:30 a.m.; and the remaining big chore is washing, candling, and putting the eggs in cartons. It rounds out a full day. Since he doesn't yet have an egg washer, each basket from the nests is dipped in warm water, swished around a little, and the eggs laid out on cloth to dry. Then they are candled and put into cartons. As a special touch, recipe cards are added to each dozen, to promote the use of more eggs.

Although it's an interesting story in itself, Abe's specialty is typical of an aggressive community that in 1936 staved off disaster by building a cheese factory and bringing livestock to the hauled and dried-out grain farms. Earlier than that, Mr. Regehr recalls peddling eggs from his small flock, for five or six cents a dozen—hardly enough to pay the transportation to town. But imaginative planning has brought the district back to life and made it thrive. The Regehr poultry farm provides a shining example of how it was done.



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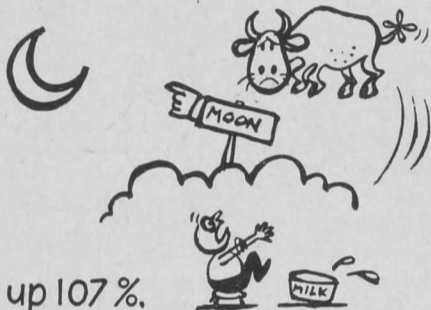
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the price of **gasoline** has gone up only 35% (less than one-third of the average).



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Fence Corners

Continued from page 10

well. That has been solved. There is a new nail out, with grooves cut nearly the full length, and a staple with one prong nearly double the length of the other side, and also grooved.

In tests made on "Farm Buildings Day," it was found that the nails could be driven easily, but that they wouldn't come out. The heads of the nails pulled off first. That means that creosoted lumber fences no longer need be put together with bolts, or with lag screws in the "lubricated" wood to be sure they'll stay.

Here are some other rules, proved to farm visitors, to follow in fence building: (1) Be sure your posts are set deeply enough; (2) three-post corners, a rod or more long, are nearly twice as strong as a corner two-thirds of a rod.

THREE posts were set in hard, dry ground, one one foot nine inches deep; another two feet six inches; and another three feet six inches. A chain was then tied to the top of each post, and hooked to a tractor.

The shallow post pulled out easily. The next post broke at ground level—but, engineers said, it often pulls out of wet soil. The deepest one always breaks before it will pull out.

In another demonstration, a number of posts were tossed into a fire. Many farmers expect to see their fences go down if there is a grass fire. Untreated posts burned first. Posts which had just been "dipped" in creosote burned almost as quickly. But the pressure-treated creosoted posts—both new ones, and posts which had been taken up after being on the farm more than 30 years, charred a little, but never caught fire.

In the corner post "pull-over" two corners were set side by side. The short one was set at two feet nine inches deep, and the longer one at an even three feet deep for all three posts. The major difference was in the length of the brace posts between the corner set-up. Engineers warn that the brace posts between the regular fence posts must be perfectly level.

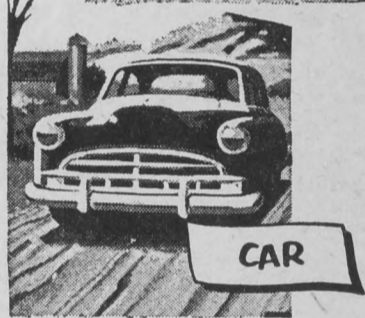
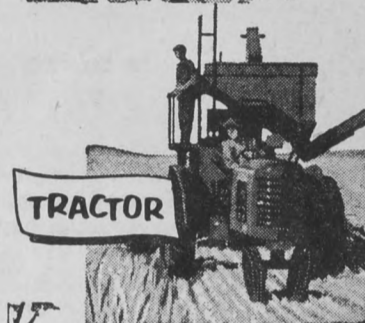
When the two corners were hooked together with a regular chain hoist, and the pressure applied, the short span crumpled quickly, with one post being pulled out entirely while the other side didn't budge.

Tests of aluminum gates are being made at the farm, but farm visitors were warned by Wayne Miller, livestock specialist, that, "they haven't worked when tried in stockyards because they won't turn a heavy animal trying to get away." Actually, strong wooden gates have proved best for that purpose.



"We have a system for caring for the 3,000 hens . . . Marge does it."

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Ring-String Chickens

by WINIFRED R. HARDY

"BEGINNER'S luck, of course," said Bertha Wilson, as she sat down on the kitchen couch. Madge Benson looked up from the eggs she was counting.

"I'm a beginner at farming, but it was not luck that 62 pullets hatched from the 78 eggs I set, 12 of which were broken by the hens."

Bertha laughed. "When you've been farming six years instead of six months you'll be glad if half the eggs you set are hatched and half of them pullets."

"But these are Ring-string chickens, so I *knew* most of them would be pullets."

"Nobody can tell whether eggs are going to be pullets or cockerels," said Bertha decidedly, "and . . ."

"I'll show you!" Madge took off her gold wedding ring and slipped a long piece of string through it, holding the two ends about 12 inches above the ring. Taking an egg from the basket she placed it on a small table near her visitor who leaned forward with an amused look on her face.

Holding the ring about one inch above the egg, Madge explained. "If it is to be a pullet the ring will go round and round, but if a cockerel it will go back and forth like a clock pendulum."

Bertha had a tolerant smile, which changed to a look of surprise as the ring began to go round and round in an ever-widening circle.

Putting the egg aside, Madge took another. This time the ring went backward and forward. A third egg was evidently a pullet and so was the fourth.

"You see? Three pullets and one cockerel."

"Let me try," demanded her visitor.

With a quiet chuckle, Madge handed her the string. By the time she had a pot of tea ready Bertha had separated the eggs into two lots.

"I can't believe it," she murmured. "Eleven cockerels and eight pullets."

"It works for humans and animals too," said Madge. "Hold it over my head." Bertha did and they both giggled as the ring swung violently around.

"Here, Pet," called Madge to a large black cat sunning itself on the window-ledge. Pet came to her followed by her kitten Toby.

"There you are," demonstrated Madge. "Pet's a female and Toby a male."

"Well, they say seeing is believing," said Bertha, "but I still don't understand . . ."

"You have to believe it though," retorted Madge. "I tested all the eggs I set and you've seen my pullets. So it is not surprising that I call them my Ring-string chickens!"

Struggle Of the Bees

SIX million bees which had worked in a 33-acre field treated with a paralyzing insecticide, and belonging to 12 European beekeepers, were killed on one occasion. Beekeepers in recent years, as well as horticulturists who depend on bees for fertilizing, have been much disturbed because of bee losses traceable to the newer insecticides.

A remarkable explanation of the heavy losses referred to above has been given by a South Dakota scientist, Dr. Elmer E. Leppik. In the course of his observations of bees, made in an attempt to determine the effect of paralyzing poisons, Dr. Leppik repeatedly observed what he calls the "struggle of the bees." This is, he says, without parallel in human experience, and competent commentators have described it not as a struggle for the preservation of the individual, but a struggle for the preservation of the species, such as Charles Darwin suggested in his origin of species published nearly 100 years ago (1859). It has been suggested that this new discovery is entitled to rank alongside that of Karl von Frisch, who first observed the dance the bees make when a discovery of a supply of nectar is

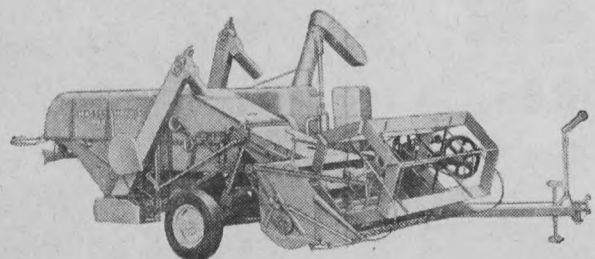
announced to the other members of the colony.

Paralyzing insecticides were first developed by the Germans and have since been introduced under various trade names, of which Parathion is an example. Some chemical weed killers have much the same effect. With some compounds the bee never lives to fly back to the hive. Others may take effect in half an hour, or in the case of U-46, a weed killer, in a few days.

Leppik discovered that when a bee has come in contact with Parathion, it flies back to the hive and is allowed in by the sentries, presumably because it shows no effect of the chemical. Within an hour, however, it does take effect and the "struggle of the bees" begins. The sick bee is first attacked by the healthy bees and they are themselves infected. These are attacked in turn by other healthy bees and the struggle to exterminate the dread enemy continues. Thus, a tragic struggle involving far more than the original infected bee takes place. On one occasion, Dr. Leppik witnessed the destruction of 1,000 bees as the result of infection by ten marked bees that had come in contact with flowers dusted with E-605. Ultimately, the whole colony was destroyed.

Such observations lend great significance to the importance of finding some method by which these nerve poisoning insecticides may be used in a more rational way.

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Try Giving Them Away

People are funniest when they don't know it—especially at berry-picking time

by INA BRUNS

THERE is berry picking, and berry picking. I have had many experiences from each of which a different story could be told. Berry picking on "shares" is one story, but trying to give away all the berries can

be a different story altogether. Not so long ago we had a raspberry patch that we started from a few Hubbard plants. Now, some people warned us we'd never raise raspberries unless we did all kinds of things like covering them in winter, and spraying and cutting out dead canes, etc. It happens we haven't two or three gardeners to do all this grooming, and since I was not very well at the time and had two youngsters to care for, since my husband had our farm to operate, that of a neighbor's to look after as well as a school to teach, we didn't care for the raspberries the way the books told us to. Unfortunately,

the berries survived the winters and promptly filled a whole garden with new plants. The plot was scarlet with fruit! I would start picking early in the morning only to find the area behind me scarlet again the next day. We had every can full of fruit and jam so I started calling friends to see if they would like to help themselves to the fruit.

Now a few neighbors just as hard pressed for time as we were, did come to pick a bit of the fruit. But raspberries won't wait until "day after tomorrow," so they went to waste by the gallons. All this time the phone was not helping matters, because it

rang incessantly as folks phoned about the berries.

"I hear you've got a lot of berries! I'd like to order a couple of cases and I want them delivered in the morning." I promptly invited the callers to come out and pick all the berries they wanted but the invitation only brought a flood of excuses from the other end of the line. "Oh, really, I wouldn't know how to pick berries! I've never picked berries in my life." Or maybe the lady was having a "tea" or maybe she was allergic to the weeds, but this much I know: no one wanted to pick berries growing in rows in a garden! I often wondered if I'd have been able to salvage a few raspberries to make a pot of jam if they had been growing in the pasture behind the hill.

We decided we couldn't go through another summer with a patch of raspberries driving us crazy, so we broke them all down and started two new rows that are kept strictly under control.

I have strawberries this year but I can already see trouble brewing. While I tend the berries the fence is lined with plump-bosomed robins wearing a sassy look in their eyes. I know they are drawing up plans for mass attack come the first berry!

Sometimes I tell myself I'll give up berrying for life! If it isn't uninvited pickers it is birds or worms. I believe the only easy way to raise berries is to raise them off the grocer's counter! V



"Take it from me young man . . ."

More and more young farm people are taking advantage of today's extensive farm training—and becoming highly trained in the technical side of farming.

But there are many things about farming that can only be learned through experience.

Take the business of buying farm equipment—tractor tires for example. The way they all look so much alike these days, it's hard to know just what make is best for you.

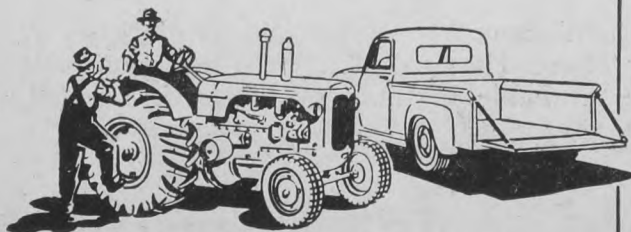
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Nature In the Raw

by MAUD STRIKE

AFTER the rush of spring floods, it seems hard to believe that the earth's crust can become as dry and crack-ridden as the accompanying picture shows. Yet this almost invariably happens, especially on the higher land, while streams may still be running heavily with water.

In the early days of spring, before Mother Nature sends the grasses and flowers up to gladden our eyes and



hearts, there is a brief period in which she allows old earth to become very dry after being frozen solidly all winter. Of course, rain and subsequent growth does away with all this, but until this happens, the soil on which we tread daily can look very aged and careworn indeed, a genuine Methuselah, past all productivity. V

Can Swathing Be Side-Stepped?

Continued from page 11

The air escapes through the grain. The Bradleys lifted the wooden floor and replaced it with a perforated steel floor. The flooring is 1/16-inch thick, and has 1/16-inch perforations, spaced at 7/16-inch centers. They added strength with two-inch by four-inch supports between the floor joists.

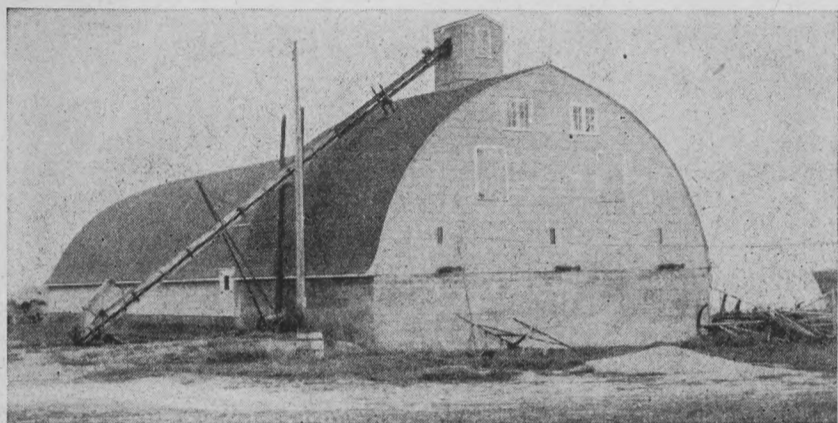
The Scotts have the same flooring, but their drier is much larger. It consists of three 36-foot by 12-foot bins. The fan forces the air into an alley-way under the drier. Six swinging doors, two to each bin, open into this alley-way, so they can force all of the air through the grain in one bin,

wheat Scott used 400 gallons of diesel fuel and 200 gallons of propane gas. The total cost of this fuel was \$95.

In either case, a large amount of heat will not be required; an air temperature of 100 degrees F. is considered adequate. This reduces the danger of overheating the grain, and so protects its germinability and milling and baking quality.

LARGE driers of the type on the Scott and Bradley farms will dry grain in a hurry. In his three 36-foot by 12-foot bins Scott has dried 5,000 bushels in a day. The Bradley operation is smaller, but they can dry 900 bushels a day in each bin, for a total of 1,800 bushels.

What about the cost of building such driers? Professor J. J. Paterson of the agricultural engineering depart-



The near end of this building is a grain drier, and the far end is for grain storage. It belongs to John Scott, Gibbey, North Dakota.

or open all the doors, and dry grain in the three bins at the same time.

IN the early fall it is possible to dry grain without extra heat. If the day is sunny and dry, with low humidity, it would certainly present no problems. If humidity is above 60 per cent, however, it is not possible to dry grain below 18 per cent moisture, which is not dry enough. On damp days and in the late fall, extra heat will be needed.

Last fall the only additional heat used initially in the Bradley drier was the heat from their tractor. A shed was built around both tractor and fan, so heat radiated by the tractor was sucked in and used to dry the grain. This raised the air temperature in the grain by ten degrees. They required more heat, and now operate an oil burner near to the fan.

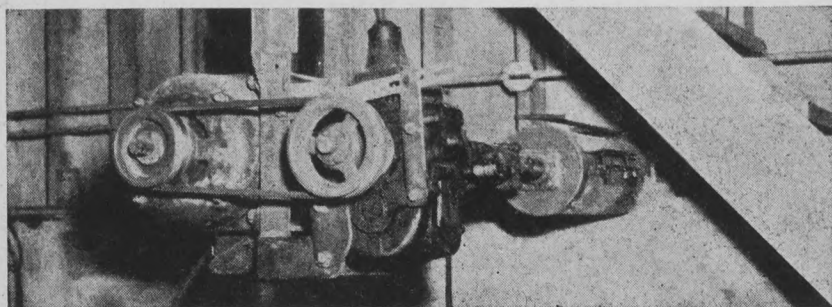
At first Scott also used only the heat from the diesel motor with which he drove the fan. In the late fall he wanted faster drying, and also to dry when the humidity was high. He therefore installed a propane gas burner to supplement the heat from the engine. The burner stands near the fan, and the suction of the fan draws in the heat. Last fall in the process of drying 20,000 bushels of

ment at the University of Manitoba says that the perforated steel flooring is available in Canada at a cost of 75 cents to \$1.00 per square foot, and a fan, adequate for a 10-foot by 12-foot bin, is available at a cost of between two and three hundred dollars. Enormous fans, such as are used in the Scott and Bradley driers, are also available, but would cost over a thousand dollars. If a bin had to be specially built, it would, of course, be extra.

Scott has built a two-way grain auger in his bins. An angle-iron frame holds an electric motor and the discarded gear assembly from an old car. The entire assembly is suspended on a track. The assembly can be moved in front of one of the augers, attached to it with a p.t.o. connection, and the auger driven to push or pull the grain, depending on whether the gear shift is set in forward or reverse position.

The Bradleys empty their drier by pushing a grain auger into the bin through a hole in the door.

Individual farmers, or several co-operating neighbors, might find that a grain drier, which will dry grain at fairly low temperatures, is a reasonably sound investment. Certainly, if wet falls come again, such a drier could pay for itself in short order. V



[Guide Photos

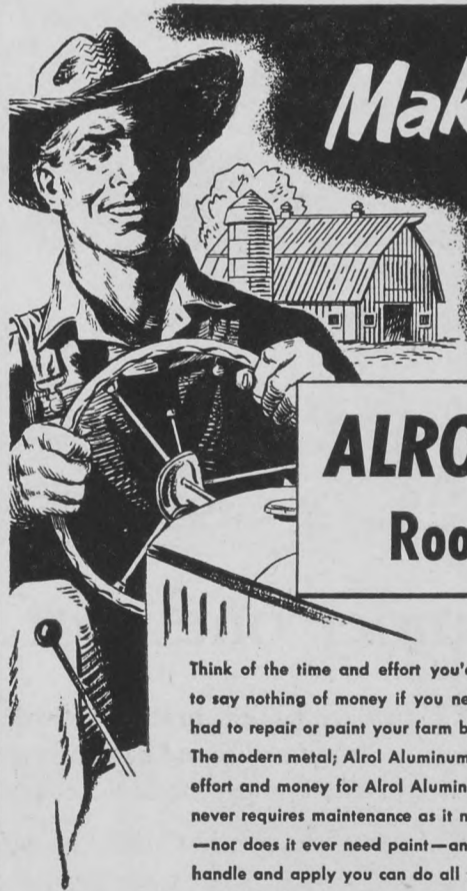
Scott's two-way bin-emptying grain auger. The electric motor drives the auger through a gear assembly, so moves grain either way, depending on whether gear shift is in the forward or reverse position. The assembly can be run along a track, and connected to any auger with a p.t.o. connection.

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How Necessary Is Summerfallow?

Continued from page 7

periments conducted by the Soils Department and the Manitoba Department of Agriculture indicate that, under farm conditions, spectacular increases can be obtained from use of mineral fertilizers. During the period 1950 to 1954, inclusive, the yields on fertilized and unfertilized strips running the length of farm fields were compared. In these experiments 100 pounds of ammonium phosphate (16-20-0) per acre, when applied on stubble land, increased wheat, oats and barley yields by 7.1, 15.8 and 16 bushels per acre, respectively. These yield increases have been sufficient to bring grain yields on fertilized stubble to about the same level as unfertilized fallow fields. Where grown on stubble land and fertilized with 100 pounds of 16-20-0 per acre, wheat yielded 22.4 bushels per acre, oats 57.5 bushels and barley 38.8 bushels. The yields on unfertilized fallow in similar experiments were: wheat, 24.5 bushels per acre; oats, 52.2 bushels, and barley, 34.2. If we assume that these results can be applied to a particular farm, and certainly there are many farms on which they do apply, we can calculate the effect of a change in cropping system upon grain production.

A change from a sequence of fallow, wheat, oats, barley, using no fertilizer, to one of wheat, wheat, oats, barley, using 100 pounds per acre of ammonium phosphate (16-20-0), would have the following effect on grain production: Fallow rotation, an average of 995 pounds of grain per acre over four years, as compared with a four-year average of 1,626 pounds of grain per acre for the wheat-wheat rotation.

The elimination of fallow and the application of 100 pounds of 16-20-0 per acre would have increased the average annual grain production, by 626 pounds per acre. If grain were valued at two cents per pound, \$4.50 worth of fertilizer would have returned \$12.62.

THE idea that fallow is necessary will die hard. Fallowing has become a habit. Furthermore, our farm enterprises are organized with respect to acreage, labor and equipment so that it is convenient to fallow a substantial acreage. Finally, it is commonly believed that fallow is necessary for weed control. However, the problem of weed control is frequently aggravated by lack of available nutrients. Where the supply of available nutrients is low, crops grow slowly and are unable to compete with weeds. Even where weeds are destroyed before seeding, they quickly reinfest a retarded crop. Adequate fertilization, by stimulating crop growth,

is frequently of as much value in weed control as summerfallow.

A reduction in fallow acreage is both practical and profitable, where the purpose of fallowing is to increase the supply of available nitrogen. This is done in Manitoba and almost certainly in a large part of eastern Saskatchewan. Present information indicates that west of this region nitrogen deficiency is a less serious problem. This may be due to a shorter period under cultivation, or, in some regions, to frequent droughts so that yields are limited by lack of moisture.

Where crops on stubble land are yellow and slow-growing in the spring, and yield poorly even in moist years, serious nitrogen deficiency is indicated. On such soils, applications of 100 pounds, or more, of 16-20-0 drilled in with the seed can be used in lieu of summerfallow. Such fertilizer use results in large and profitable yield increases.

Application of 100 pounds per acre of 16-20-0 at seeding time has two disadvantages. It does not supply sufficient nitrogen under many conditions and it necessitates handling a large amount of fertilizer in the busy spring season. Additional nitrogen could be supplied by using fertilizers with a higher proportion of nitrogen to phosphate. A large amount of fertilizer would still be required.

Other methods of applying fertilizer are being considered. For efficient

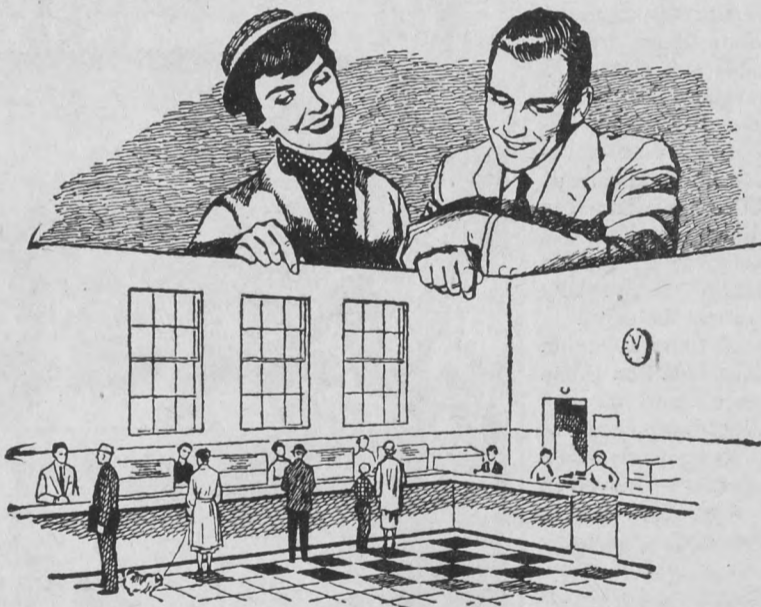
use, phosphate must be applied with the seed. On most soils, sufficient phosphate can be supplied by using 40 to 60 pounds of ammonium phosphate (11-48-0). Nitrogen need not be applied at seeding time. It is used by the crop, when applied either in the early spring before seeding, or the previous fall, or even after seeding. Tillage machines are being adapted so that fertilizers can be applied at the time of fall, or early spring, tillage. This permits application of fertilizer when work is not pressing, without making an additional field operation.

Fallowing has long been considered a necessary evil — necessary if good crops are to be produced, but an evil because land is left idle and subject to erosion. It is now clear that on much of the prairies, fallowing is an unnecessary evil.

(Note: Dr. R. A. Hedlin is associate professor, Department of Soils, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.—ed.)



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Tom Lamb, a veteran pilot, flies in to look the cattle over in winter.

Rancher North of 53

Continued from page 13

circular fan over a nine-foot swath, was a brand-new idea there.

A Rhome double-disk harrow, 4,500 pounds in weight, which plows the surface with very heavy steel disks, also made the journey. So did a brush-cutter with a 12-foot blade and a brush-piler attachment, which shakes roots free of earth before piling them up with broken saplings into windrows.

Those windrows are not for burning. Dead poplars are the preferred home of the lively little wood-bee, sometimes called the leaf-cutter. These agile bees do a better job of tripping alfalfa blooms, and thus setting seed, than the honey- or bumblebee.

IN 1953, the Lamb boys cleared and sowed 71 acres during the summer, with brome, alfalfa and oats. The oats, reaching the surprising height of seven feet, were too tall, and a strong wind blew down the heaviest stands. But Lamb figures that the crop would have averaged 100 bushels per acre.

Last spring (1954) Lamb had 250 acres ready for seed, and more land was being broken constantly. He uses 12 pounds of brome grass seed with two pounds of alfalfa per acre, a mixture recommended by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, and obtained through the Department at the customary low rates.

The agricultural representative at Swan River (nearest one to The Pas) is intensely interested in northern exploratory work of this kind. The Lambs also operate four-acre test plots of timothy, alsike, crested wheat-grass and sweet clover.

Unhappily, last summer, an invasion of cutworms (army worms) stripped many of the fields, leaving the deep black soil exposed. These areas had to be reseeded with brome grass very soon, in order to make good enough growth to prevent winter-killing.

"The first year, after we clear and break the land, we sow it with oats and grass seed," says Tom, "in order to get off an oat crop. We thresh that, using the chop mostly for the calves."

The Lambs are not farming "by guess and by gosh." They are quick to seek advice from government agriculturists, and to learn from northern

farmers and ranchers. They have a particularly good opportunity for the latter, since much of the work of the Lamb Airways has been in the far north.

Greg and Dennis Lamb particularly, have asked questions constantly in northern Alberta and Manitoba, finding how others go about their farm operations, the problems they meet and how they overcome them. And all members of the family read agricultural bulletins with the zeal of new converts.

Ranch headquarters on Moose Creek, some three miles by water from Lamb's Moose Lake trading post, show their extreme youth, not more than three years old. There's the residence . . . the houseboat serves as a temporary bunkhouse when needed, although most Indian workers prefer a tent on shore . . . chicken house, barn, and back a distance in the trees, the open-sided cattle sheds.

Curly Lapointe, manager, and his wife Goldie, both from The Pas, have adapted themselves to the life of a pioneering ranch. To be sure, the ranch is only 20 air minutes from The Pas, though 60 miles by boat. They are in scheduled communication with the trading post and Lamb headquarters in The Pas, by radio-communication—when it works!

FOR farm labor, Tom Lamb depends a good deal upon his own efforts, his sons, and the efficient machinery he provides. The energetic father never stops when at the ranch, and has often eaten his dinner off the fender of the tractor. In haying season, more hands are needed, and he hires Swampy Cree Indians for the job.

"They'll work like horses for about a week, none better," says Tom, who has known them from his cradle days, and speaks their language as fluently as he does English. "Then they want to get to town and spend their money, or get back to their families. No use nagging. The thing to do is take 'em back, and hire another crew. And those'll work good for the next week."

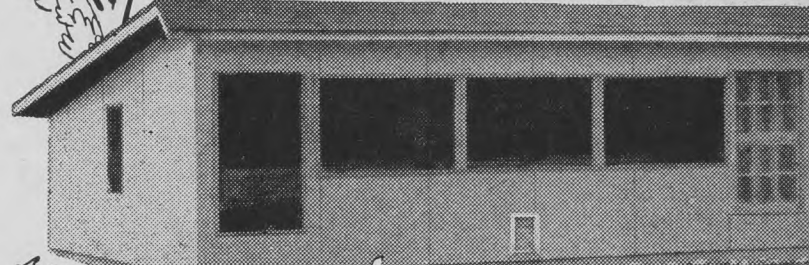
The wild hay lies in narrow strips along 10 miles of the Summerberry River, and the full three-mile length of the Moose Creek. The boys used a side-delivery rake at first, but this past summer of high water, it was not suitable. Now they have a dump rake which does a more satisfactory job under the circumstances, although they declare the whole operation is

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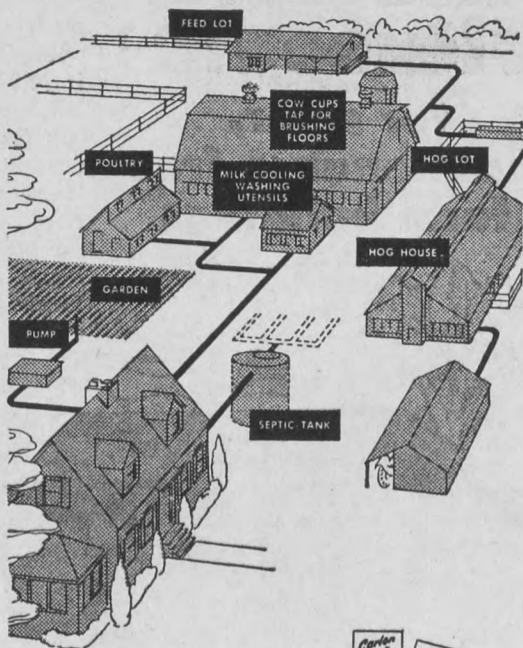
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not highly efficient. It's an expensive way of haying, but will serve until the seeded hay develops sufficiently. (The wild hay is highly nutritious, the Lambs and other ranchers declare, although the Department of Agriculture doesn't agree.)

"The hay's pretty difficult to handle, if it's left loose—means a lot of forking," says Tom. "So we use a baler, and haul it by stone-boat to the land-



Tom Lamb, muskrat and cattle rancher, trader and freighter.

ing. The stone-boat has a movable section, so we can leave the bales right there on the bank to wait for the scow. Then we store the bales in the big barn at ranch headquarters."

The cattle come to the hay, not vice versa. They drift in by themselves to the open-faced shed, as the weather grows cold. It offers some shelter from the cold, fronting into a poplar bluff. Tall grass sticks up through the snow, and there are no fences to confine the cattle to any one area. Indian ponies can rustle through the whole winter here, for the grass grows very high in summer.

MOOSE CREEK, leading out of Moose Lake and into the Summerberry River, is a stream that stays open all winter long. The bank, some three feet high, has been graded in several spots to provide easy safe approaches to the water. Similarly, the bull pen encloses part of the creek so there is never any problem of having to water the cattle.

Starting with 60 head—41 matrons, one bull, 19 calves—Lamb had good results. One cow had a fall calf, but 35 others dropped theirs in the spring. All were born outside, and all but five cows calved. Two bulls were added in the spring of 1954, one a registered purebred costing \$500.

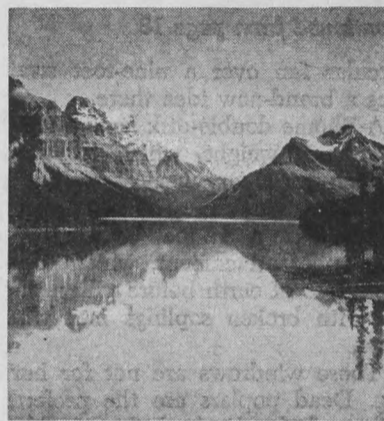
No cattle had been sold as yet, so there's been no need of a roundup, either western style or by airplane. Tom's target is 500 head before he starts selling, and he hopes to have that in another three years. Then the beef will be taken back up the Summerberry by barge to The Pas. It can be shipped to Winnipeg, or butchered in town for local distribution, and shipped to points up the Hudson Bay Railway.

Lamb was putting Indian hunters on the tracks of the vanished cows when we left the ranch. With the good-luck that attends all his ventures, undoubtedly they found the animals, and brought them and the bulls together. So by this time Lamb will have had his quota of calves again. V

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Vaccines— Dead or Alive

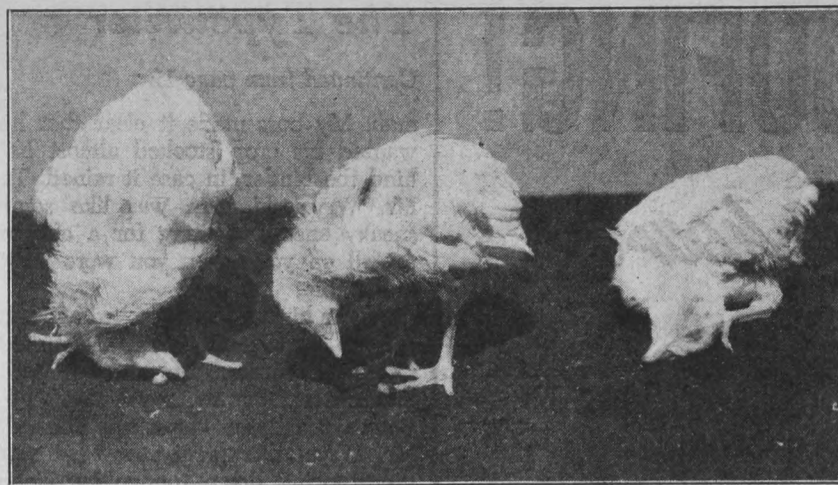
Continued from page 8

stored under refrigeration, and (4) a record of sales must be kept, and a copy supplied to the Poultry Division, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture at the end of each month.

This represents a piece of fast official action to meet a specific threat to Saskatchewan's poultry industry. In time, other provinces may, and probably will, follow suit.

Most of those in the poultry industry realize that a certain amount of control is necessary over vaccines, although there are still some who don't understand the nature of the product they wish to handle. In a letter to The Country Guide, one hatcheryman asked, "How is it that a farmer can go into any store and buy paris green or gopher bait—both of them deadly poison—yet he cannot buy a simple product such as a vaccine to immunize his chicks from Newcastle disease?"

Such statements are one reason why officials insist that live virus vaccines be distributed only by those who know what they're dealing with. In the first place, these vaccines are not simple products. They are living disease germs that could spread the infection and do serious damage to



Chicks suffering from Newcastle disease.

[Photo courtesy O.V.C.]

birds that are either too young, or haven't enough inherited immunity, to fight off the disease. Quite different from a poison which some individual bird or animal might eat, then sicken and die!

Another concession sought by hatcherymen is the right to vaccinate chicks on their own premises, and sell them as immunized stock. All authorities, both federal and provincial, are against such a move at the present time. The report of the Poultry Health Fact-Finding Committee, given at the last annual convention of the Canadian Federation of Hatchery Associations, backs them up. "If the

hatcheries are free of these diseases now," states the report, "why introduce the infection to them."

AFTER a vaccine has been given, birds show mild symptoms of the disease for five to seven days. This means that most of the chicks would be in the process of being shipped out to customers at a time when their resistance was lowered, and the disease could cause heavy mortality. For birds having no inherited immunity, the loss would be still greater because they would be hit even harder by vaccination at an early age. Until such time as all eggs entering hatcheries come from vaccinated flocks, vaccina-

tion in hatcheries will not be recommended. However, as demonstrated in Saskatchewan, a good way to speed flock immunization is to make vaccines more readily available.

It is often said that we should follow the American lead and allow free manufacture and distribution of live-virus vaccines. To get the official American viewpoint, The Country Guide interviewed Dr. Floyd Cross, Dean of the Colorado Veterinary College, and president of the American Veterinary Association.

"You still have a chance to learn from our mistakes," he said. "We relaxed controls years ago—now we wish we had them back. Our Association is against live-virus vaccines being dispensed over the counter like any common drug."

In the United States many firms produce vaccines. These products are subject to federal inspection only when shipped out of the State they are manufactured in. As long as a firm stays within State boundaries, it is subject only to State laws, which range all the way from rigid inspection to no inspection at all. This has resulted in large quantities of inferior vaccines on the market.

This would indicate there's much to be said in favor of the traditional "long look" Canadian officialdom takes in matters of this kind, even if they do sometimes look a bit longer than is necessary. V



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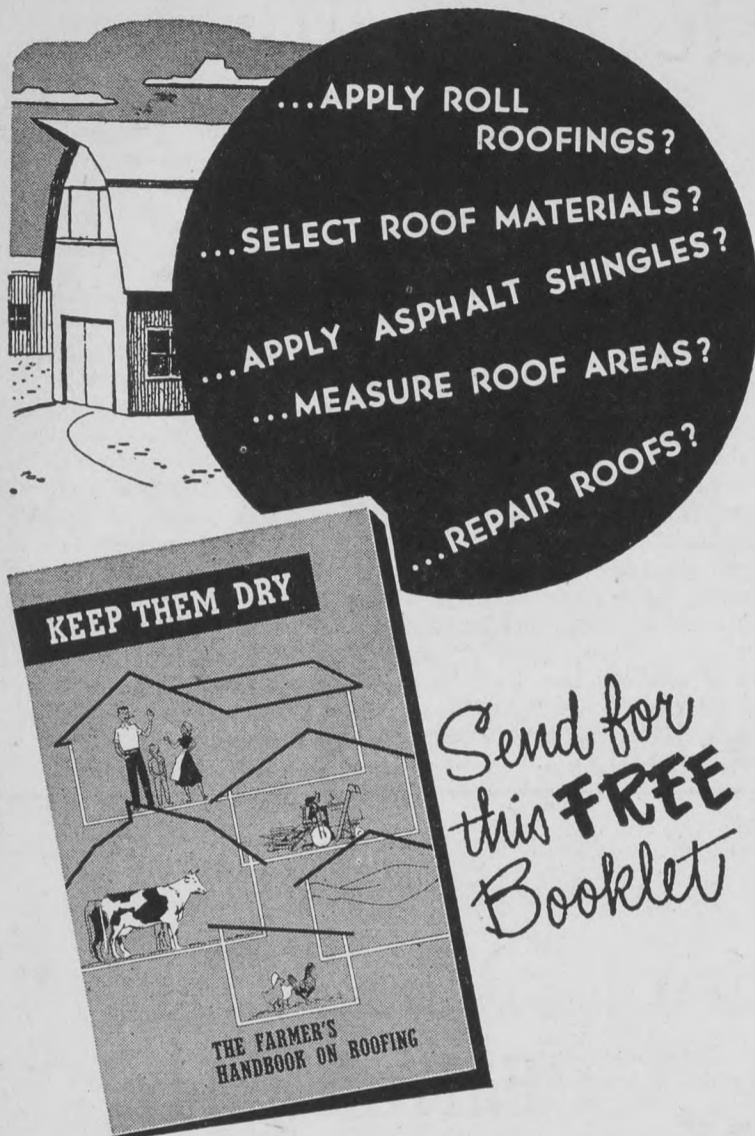
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The Typewriter

Continued from page 12

man. My boss made it clear that he wanted his crop stooked almost behind the binder, in case it rained. To Mr. Wrycjowski, rain was like some sneaky enemy, waiting for a chance to fall on you when you were most vulnerable.

As the binder whip cracked and the carrier started dumping, I started stooking, "setting" the sheaves hard into the stubble so they'd stand up. Before I had the first stook finished, Mr. Wrycjowski's great straw hat was disappearing down the golden slope of wheat. From the first minute, it was a losing battle.

"Kid," said Mr. Wrycjowski that night, "you better stook a couple of hours before breakfast, then three-four hours after supper. There's too much dew to cut then. That way you might catch up." He pointed over the edge of his big barn, to a little popcorn puff in the sky. "See that? She looks like rain."

Breakfast at Wrycjowski's was at six sharp, supper was at 7:30. I went to bed at ten. Rose at four. The rest of the time I stooked.

I was still a growing boy. The harvest days came blazing hot. The rough bundle butts scratched my sides through my thin blue shirt. In the morning, the dew was on them, and the cold damp stung like wet salt. At night I tossed in the bunkhouse, stooking wheat even in my sleep. I had never worked so hard in all my life, yet the lying rows continued to broaden.

Mr. Wrycjowski was on pins and needles. "Hurry up, kid! I felt my rheumatism last night—that's a sure sign of rain. I should never have let a kid tackle this job, anyway . . . If I lose all my crop in the rain . . ."

It was my first time away from home, too; and sometimes in the still of the evening, I'd ask myself how I ever got there. My valley home was ten miles below that sweep of plain. I'd vision the lamp lit, the family gathered around the table in the old happy, comradely way. Then choking waves of homesickness would sweep over me. Even the memories of trying to lead old Pat from the pasture seemed like a wondrous idyll that would never come my way again.

As the days passed and the work grew and grew, I passed into a state of stupor. I remember the hot winds on the stubble, the whirl of partridges, the crackle of the sheaves. I remember praying it wouldn't rain. I remember wishing it was all over, so I could be down with my family, in the easy routine of home life again.

The only way I could cheer myself was to think of the fortune I'd make with that typewriter. Some day, when I never had to farm any more, I'd come back to all those hills that I was toiling over. I'd sit down and remember—

"Kid!" It would be Mr. Wrycjowski, yelling above the rattle of the binder. "Get up off that ground and stook!"

I'd get up as if poked by a needle, reeling down the bullwheel track because it was easier than dragging my aching feet across the stiff stubble. When I got to the barnyard each evening, I was even too tired to try pronouncing my boss' name, I'd mumble

"Mr. Joski" under my breath, and after two weeks even he was too tired to correct me.

Sometimes I set myself a goal of a hundred stooks extra, just to keep going. Sometimes I kept my eye on the top of a knoll, working up to it like a mountain climber to a high peak. Other times I kept my eyes on the bundles, not looking up till I had stumbled to the edge of the row. There were days when Mr. Wrycjowski got so far ahead of me that I'd wonder (hopefully) if the binder had broken down—or if he was still in the Province of Alberta.

But the end came. The last bundle of grain was planted on its jagged butt, the last cap-sheaf pointed its ripe nose to the northwest. Mr. Wrycjowski looked over the dotted yellow fields, admitted the sight was good, and told me he'd pay me in two weeks, in accordance with our agreement.

Wearily I tramped down the evening road, but now that road led up to the sunset clouds, beyond which was a world where incredulous-faced people begged for autographed copies of my books, while nearby hovered dear old Miss Featherdown, snivelling with pride . . . and Mr. Wrycjowski, to whom the first book was dedicated.

By the time I got home, the after-colors of sunset had faded in the west and a string of ducks trailed across a wash of late-September night sky. Indoors the coal-oil lamp winked.

My father was pulling off his socks in the kitchen and rubbing them gently over his toes. Mother had a cup of tea ready on the stove. The kids had gone to bed, but they came pounding downstairs in their shirt-tails, glad to see me home.

"Was it too hard, Stanley?" asked my mother anxiously.

"Oh, heck no, Mother!" I said.

"Working for the stranger's not like working at home, eh?" said my father shrewdly.

"The experience did me good, Pa," I said airily. I drank tea slowly like a hero returned in triumph, and at least my two kid brothers seemed impressed.

When I finally started upstairs for bed, stiff in every joint, Dad turned in the kitchen and said casually: "Jump lively in the morning, Stanley. I've been cutting two days, and I'm asking you to catch up with the stooking in case it rains."

SO next morning at six I was stooking again in our own low fields. In the blistering heat of the afternoon, I thought, each time, I'd never make the circle to the big stook which shaded a lard-pail filled with spring water. By an intuition only mothers will understand, my mother sent the kids with a fresh pail every time I needed it most.

The binder Dad had borrowed was only a little five-foot, compared to Mr. Wrycjowski's big eight-foot, so my father worked longer hours, hoping to get our crop "down" before the neighbors needed the binder back. It was hard on the oxen, better for a slow, heavy pull than horses, but not built to keep up the walking pace that binding demanded.

"Poor brutes," my father would say at nightfall, as old Pat led the others to the trough for water. "Poor old Pat! If it wasn't for you, many a time we'd have gone hungry here."

Dead tired myself, I resolved then that one of my first books would be addressed to farmers who talked to their oxen and forgot to say anything to their own sons.

Came the last morning and a high wind that stripped the west pasture bush and filled the sky with colored leaves. The perfume of dying sap-scent rose from every hollow. Ducks wheeled in flight; crows dotted our stooks, eating grasshoppers as they sheltered from the wind. My spirits were as gay as the breeze-streaked sky, for the stooking was done.

Now only the threshing remained; then firewood for the winter; then a monstrous snowstorm, I hoped, that would confine us to the house for six months. That way, I figured, I should get at least my first book done.

The next morning old Pat wouldn't leave his stall. He wouldn't eat. Worse, he let us handle him any old way we liked. Dad was so worried, he wrapped him in the best blanket Ma had in the house.

"Aw, he just pulled too hard, Pa," I was saying cheerfully, when a shadow fell across the barn door.

It was Mr. Wrycjowski.

I jumped to my feet with a neighborly smile. "Mr. Waycotski," I said, in a man-to-man voice, "you needn't have bothered coming all that distance down here just to pay me. I was going up on Sunday—"

"Kid," said Mr. Wrycjowski, in a flat voice, "maybe that wind didn't hurt you—you're low here. But me—I'm on the hills. Half my stooks are down. And nine times out of ten, after a wind she rains."

There are moments that seem to last for eternity. That was one of them. I remembered my agreement: if the stooks fell, he didn't have to pay me.

"What you say," said Mr. Wrycjowski, "if you restook 'em—then I pay you?"

I looked at my dad, my heart in my eyes. I knew he was anxious to start the fall plowing. Father gave me a sad, searching glance, then he started caressing old Pat again. "All right, Stanley."

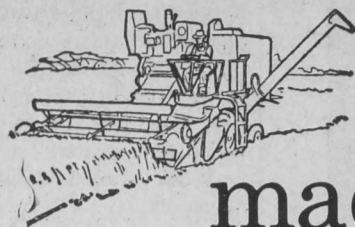
As I raced to the house to get my jacket, I heard Mr. Wrycjowski say to Dad: "Funny kid that, Mr. Harrison—he still can't pronounce my name."

"Well, that is odd," my father agreed, with only part of his mind on the visitor. "Do you know anything about sick oxen, Mr. Caypotski?"

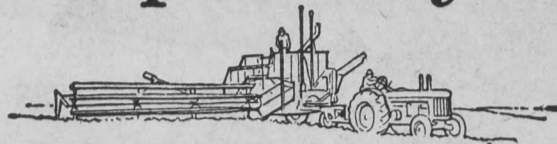
THE restooking of Mr. Wrycjowski's windward knolls was at least a change of torture. The bright sun and dry Alberta winds had dried the straw, so that the bundles were not nearly so heavy. To even the ledger, the prickly day-nettle, which grew low in the wheatfields and was always green at cutting time, had now dried out; and each time I slung two bundles under my arm, the jagged dry bars punctured my sides like naked pin-cushions. I envied Mr. Wrycjowski hauling granaries down to the old slough bottoms, in preparation for the threshing ahead.

At each mealtime, the farmer would heap an enormous plate with ham, potatoes and anywhere from six to a dozen fried eggs, depending, as he said, on whether he was hungry or not. In between mouthfuls, he kept wanting to know if I was still going to be an author. The way he kept talk-

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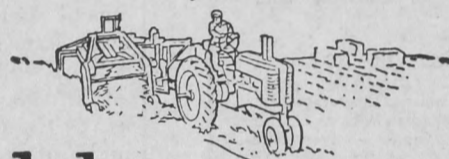
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ing about it, you would have thought it was not an honest way to want to earn a living.

When the last of the fallen sheaves were crisping again in the perfect harvest sunlight, I was paid the wages agreed on. Ten cents an acre—four limp, dirty, beautiful ten-dollar bills. It was the first time I had ever even held forty whole dollars and I had the weird feeling that I was still stooking and this was a delirium caused by overwork.

After supper, Mr. Wrycoski walked as far as the gate with me and gave me some parting advice.

"Kid, I been thinking. What are you gonna write about? You ain't been nowhere. You gotta meet interesting people... see something besides bush country. You gotta travel."

"All I need is a typewriter, Mr. Wrayoutski," I told him, with a shining faith. "Thanks again—and goodbye."

"Goodbye, kid," said Mr. Wrycoski, with something like both sorrow and pity in his eyes. "I sure hope she don't rain till threshing's done."

On the homeward trek once more, I kept the stooking money rolled in my right hand, and my fist in my overalls pocket. The days were getting shorter now; the afternoons were hot and still, the nights windy and cold. That night, a bright moon cast shadows from the dark naked bush that rustled along the roadside. A coyote skirled from a knoll, and far-away farm dogs answered. There was a faint bugling above me, and I saw an arrowhead of wild geese etched across the moon. It was the loveliest night of my whole life—because tomorrow I'd be sending to Edmonton for a second-hand typewriter.

As I turned up our lane, I saw the lantern bobbing toward the barn through the dark, swaying trees, always so thin and naked this time of year. It was like the whole bush country was sorrowing, getting ready to rest.

I wondered about the light, for it was away past the oxen's feeding time. In the yard, I saw my mother and my kid brothers flitting about. Mother was wringing her hands.

"It's old Pat," she said. "Your father thinks he's dying."

"Don't be always worrying, Ma," I chided her. "You know old Pat—you couldn't kill him with a rifle. Just dangle an oat bundle under his nose and watch him come to life."

I went over to the barn to cheer up Father, but he—old Pat, I mean—was already dead. The tears were slipping down my father's cheeks.

"Poor old Pat!" said my father. "He killed himself for us. But he wouldn't let himself die till the last bundle was down. Stanley, he knew we had to get it cut—no one can ever tell me that ox didn't know."

"Sure, he knew, Dad," I agreed huskily. "If it hadn't been for him, many a time we'd have gone hungry on this farm."

THAT night we sat around the kitchen stove, talking in thick voices about the first ox we ever had in Alberta.

"Mind the times," said Mother, her chin trembling, "when he'd come up

to the house and eat rhubarb leaves? He was the only beast I ever knew would eat them."

"Yeah," said my youngest brother, Bub, in awe. "He was the first ox I ever rode, too."

"Say, Dad"—this from my brother, Ed, who was past 11 and did a bit of trapping in the winter—"when you haul him out tomorrow, leave him in the old slough by the upper muskeg. Maybe I can trap some coyotes around him."

The connection between coyote skins and dollars reminded me. From my pocket I brought forth the wad of money. Everybody looked first at my right hand, then out of the windows, and nobody said anything.

"He paid me," I said unnecessarily.

My mother cleared her throat. "It was dear bought," she said.

"I did enough work to kill four horses for that," I said proudly.

"Yeah," said my father gruffly. "It's yours. You go ahead and get your—your what-writer? I know how bad you've been counting on that."

After awhile I said slowly: "Dad... how're we going to get the fall plowing done without another ox?"

"Let it lie!" said my mother sharply.

My father could only nod.

Something funny was happening to my heart then. It was as if, being away from home, I had got to know what home meant to me. It was as if I had got a glimpse of why I wanted to be an author. And I was kind of ashamed in case they'd guess how I suddenly felt toward them, as I never had before.

"Naw—you take it," I said gruffly. "After all, that's why I wanted to get a typewriter. So I could get you some horses—and Mother some good dishes—"

My mother got up suddenly and went into the living room. My dad just sat there, not saying anything.

"Easy come, easy go, Dad," I said, trying to cheer him—and myself—up.

But I had to put the money between his fingers to make him take it.

"You better look sharp, Dad," I said, "if you want to get another ox as good as old Pat."

All of a sudden my father got to his feet. He blew his nose hard and looked down at me.

"I'll take it, son," he said, "and maybe next year... There's so many debts this year—so many things we have to get..."

His voice trailed off suddenly. Then he gave a shout into the other room. "Nellie!"

My mother came running in alarm.

"What, Sam?"

"Where's the pen and ink and my glasses?"

"Sam—"

"Don't ask questions, woman," said my father, roaring. "And get to bed, all of you! There comes a time when a man will try anything..."

What he had in mind, he wouldn't tell us, though he sat up till two in the morning, cursing beneath his breath every time he spilled some ink. After breakfast, when he started out to look for an ox, he had the letter wrapped in a sheet of paper, to keep it from getting dirty in his overalls pocket. Mother thought the strain of homesteading was affecting his mind.

THE geese passed from the sky. The thresher moved from farm to farm up the valley, cleaning up each homesteader's fields. The stubble turned again in soft black rows, and frost lay on the underside of furrows in the morning. The days were shining bright; and long into the night, you could hear empty grain wagons rattling along the hard-baked roads.

Now it was a wonderful thing for me to be sent to town for the week's mail; but as the days grew shorter still, and fleecy clouds colored the moon at night, I got to thinking of the winter to come, and a yearning would steal over me for something I wouldn't consciously think of till maybe next year again.

Then, the day before it snowed, I went to the village. Seemed all the homesteaders were in there, buying winter clothes, hauling machinery to the blacksmith shop, standing on the corners talking. My only errand was to get the mail, for Father was getting



"I put your picture on the wall, honey, right under my champion Yorkshire."

more and more impatient about the delay in receiving what he vaguely referred to as "some news."

In summer the post office was a deserted place. But during these weeks, and up until Christmas, it was Mecca to those lonely homesteaders waiting for grain cheques, mail-order parcels and letters from far-away friends.

That evening, as the mail was being sorted, the public cubicle became more and more crammed, till no others could squeeze in. Those inside listened to the staccato pounding of the postmaster stamping the incoming letter mail . . . the pause as he sorted it . . . the great dump as another bag was opened. Those outside peered through the one barred window and shouted encouragement to those within. "Only one bag left . . . he'll soon be opening now . . ."

The postmaster, who'd been in the U.S. Marine Corps before coming to the Alberta bushland, appeared totally unaware of either the faces peering in at the window, or the crowd waiting for the wicket to open. With him, formality increased in direct ratio to the tension and problems of office. With a dignity and deliberation no man in a similar position has ever equalled, he would open the wicket, pause for a moment with a look that instantly restored silence and order, then reach for a bundle of mail.

Always the ritual was the same. Deftly he sifted the letters first, then the second-class mail. Shoving was useless—you waited his call.

"Adams . . . Appleby . . . Anderson . . ."

In alphabetical order, each filed up. With the last postcard or circular, the postmaster dismissed them in his professional Texan drawl. "That's all for Braebrook . . . That's all for Corber . . ."

"Harrison!" It was our turn at last.

Of the miscellaneous assortment of bills, price lists from fur-buyers, farm catalogs and the like, one letter suddenly rivetted my attention. The envelope was long and bulky. It had a two-tone color and was plastered with stamps—American stamps. Even the postmaster paused suddenly and stared at it—as if, for a moment, it took him far into the past.

Then the efficient mask slipped over his face. "And that's all the mail for Harrison . . ."

That letter—it was addressed to me!

There, in that little country post-office, I opened it slowly, sure there was some mistake. But no—it was from Seattle—from a woman who was only a name to me—my aunt Abigail Porter.

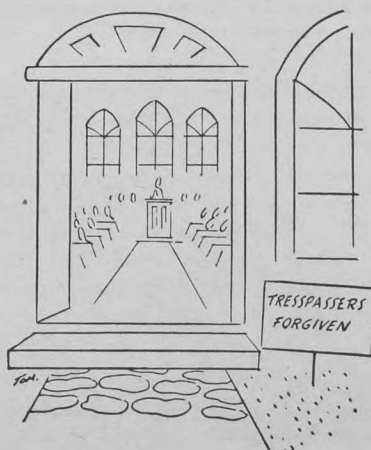
It was typed and signed with a great flourish; and it said, in part:

"Dear Stanley: If this letter is a surprise to you, I assure you Sam's was an even greater surprise to me. But a happy one—after all these years; and especially because your father is so convinced that you have remarkable writing talents and are determined to make that your lifework. It is not an easy struggle, Stanley—I say this only so that when things look bleak, you will not be too ready to quit, and also because it helps to know that someone understands your failures as much as your successes. Sam says you can't afford a typewriter yet . . . perhaps, then, you will let this unknown auntie help a little, too. With that hope, I am sending you the finest Fox typewriter made in the U.S.A. . . ."

It was impossible for me to realize then what my father had done. It must have been a bitter blow to his pride to write his sister after all those years. Nor did he dare tell us of what he had done. But a long time later, I did understand.

At that moment in the post office—jostled by people I had known all my life—I remember I was in a world apart. It was as if all my work and fears, all my hopes and dreams, had been saved up for that one moment. Nothing could break the enchanted spell.

Not even the great bulk of Mr. Wrycjowski straightening up from the wicket . . . nor the drawling professional voice of the ex-Texas postmaster, taking a long deep breath and letting go: "And that's all the mail for Whizzsowfski . . ."



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Healing



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Harry Kane calls an especially good animal in his feedlot to the attention of H. J. Hargrave, of the Lethbridge Experimental Station.

Year-Round Steer Feeding

Picture Butte operator fed 1,700 head on contract, on two farms, as a year-round enterprise

THE new look in feedlots is a year-round operation, and the goal of Harry Kane at Picture Butte, Alberta, is to keep his feedlot busy all year. Last winter, he fed about 1,700 cattle on two farms, and though the heavy cattle went off in March and April, the calves go through to June and July. By then, it is time to clean up and get ready for another year, so he is satisfied that efficiency isn't too low.

On an operation of that size, efficiency has to be good in every respect, and with their equipment the entire set-up requires only six men. A ten-hour day for each, keeps things moving smoothly. One lot is just south of the Picture Butte sugar factory, while the other, along with storage for grain and the feed chopper, is a couple of miles east. One man can handle the chopping, because a system of elevators and bins has eliminated hand shovelling. Two men are busy hauling the hay purchased in the community each fall before steers are ordered, and the beet pulp from the factory. A foreman works on each lot, and another man looks after sick animals and the hospital shed. In fact, careful management has kept losses down to about one-half of one per cent—a good record in any lot.

Steers in the Kane lot start on rented cover crop in the fall, and are then sent to the lot where they get whole oats. Gradually they are switched to chopped wheat and barley, and good alfalfa is fed free-choice. Beet pulp is mixed with the chop and mineral, and sections of the feed bunks are filled, while the cattle clean out other parts. There is no waste of time.

Harry Kane has been feeding steers since about 1928, when the sugar beet factory started, but never had as bad a year as 1952, when the price broke from its high levels. Though he was feeding his own steers then, he is feeding on contract for a packing firm now. This year he was paid 21 cents on the gain, and the packing plant assumed the cost of veterinary services.

Bob Rainbow, his son-in-law, is a busy man around the lot, and says the secret of feeding steers on contract is to see them weighed in. They are prepared to travel many miles to watch the cattle go over the scales.—D.R.B. v

Oyster Farmers Really Like Oysters

WORK in a chocolate factory may destroy one's taste for chocolates, but it's different with oysters.

Three hundred members of an oyster farmers' association in Australia proved this, when, at their annual conference, they devoured 1,500 dozen



Secretary J. A. Facey almost proves the adage that anticipation is greater than realization.

oysters—an average of five dozen each, a fair snack even for the really big eaters.

To fill the corners they ate 400 pounds of prawns and assorted 'sea food, and drank £70 worth of beer during a lunch that lasted from 1:30 p.m. when their morning business session was over, until five o'clock.

Reg Richards, Jr., from Georges River, won the oyster-opening competition, with a time of three minutes, five seconds, for 36 oysters. v

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The Countrywoman

WE think usually of spring as the time for the sowing of seeds, bursting buds and fresh, green growth. A colorful wealth of evidence of its presence greets our eyes; is confirmed by fragrance borne upon a breeze and accompanied by bird song, sweet to our ears. Thus Mother Nature makes us aware, each year, that this is the season of promise; that its fulfilment will be realized in later months through garden, orchard and field.

But in another and true sense this is a harvest season. In the world of our social planning, thought and action, it is a time of reaping, gathering and storing of the fruits of previous months' endeavors. The evidences of that harvest lie about us, if only we have the ears to hear, the eyes to see and minds attuned to understand such things. Well may we rejoice in the richness and variety of the Canadian spring harvest; in tasks bravely attempted and those ended.

During the month past, pouring from schools, colleges and universities has come a stream of thousands of young men and women, each with a definite scholastic standing achieved or with a diploma in hand. For students this is the "end of the year" for it means that they leave classrooms to seek out eagerly a place for themselves in communities scattered across Canada. Those who have graduated in arts and science, education, medicine or nursing, law, commerce or other special fields of learning are well prepared to make contributions of value to our Canadian way of life.

The projects and planning undertaken by women's organizations are a powerful force in our social world today. Not all the tasks to which they set themselves are brought to completion in any given year at the time of an annual meeting. In their endeavors women are thus educating themselves and the public at large, developing new skills, hobbies and ways of learning.

WE have had two national conventions of women's organizations in the west, during the past month. The National Council of Women, the oldest among such bodies, held its meeting in Saskatoon. The fruits of its efforts will duly be reported by written records and by delegates speaking to the various women's groups affiliated. Among these are the results of a study on the working mother and the effect on her family. The married woman now makes up about one-fifth of the employed female work force in Canada. The president of the N.C.W. is reported as having said that judging from various local councils across Canada that "the picture was not as bad as they would have expected." A plea for aid, from national women's organizations, was made by a representative of the Alberta-Saskatchewan-Manitoba school of narcotic-alcohol education. This school, the first of its kind, was established in 1948 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. A two-weeks' summer course is held at Saskatoon, and the desire is "to view the twin problems of alcohol and drugs from a factual point of view—not just as a mass of prejudices."

In a keynote address Dr. Hilda Neatby, Professor of History, University of Saskatchewan, spoke on *What We Should Expect From Our Schools*. She deplored the tendency of parents today, to expect schools to undertake responsibilities which rightly belong to parents and the home; and the fact that "children were being taught to neglect and scorn intellectual values which have been hallmarks of civilization," and went on to sum up: "The school's ultimate aim is to give some insight into the theory of civilization, some understanding of fundamental principles. Young people require serious and systematic study under learned, able and experienced teachers."

The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, gathered in Winnipeg for their 55th annual meeting, reported that more than \$205,000 had been raised and spent on its various educational

Gleanings from a harvest of ideas realized in springtime — and the homemakers' Jubilee salute to the women of yesterday

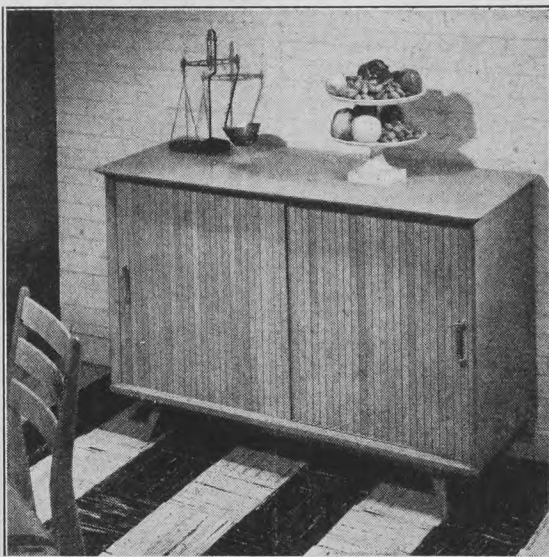
by AMY J. ROE

projects during 1954-55. Provincial chapters had increased their funds in the past year by over \$14,000. Scholarships and bursaries had been granted to students who are descendants of Canadian service men, who lost their lives in two World Wars. Approval was given to a recommendation that 20 bursaries of \$1,600 each will be made available in 1956 and three overseas scholarships. Hospitality had been extended to new Canadians, teachers, overseas students and groups of young people.

A resolution passed urged the 32,000 IODE members in Canada to pledge themselves individually and collectively through 960 chapters in various communities to publicize through every available medium, precautionary measures which would help prevent offenses against women and children by so-called sexual psychopaths. Another resolution pledged support to the Canadian Association of Consumers, which has by its efforts accomplished so many benefits to Canadian consumers. A resolution urged CBC to make more extensive use of its facilities to bring to the attention of Canadians the menace of Communism.

At a dinner on the closing evening His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, the Right Hon. Vincent Massey, presented the Order of Merit to the IODE, awarded in recognition of its services to children through Save The Children Fund. This award was conferred on behalf of the International Union for Child Welfare at the session last August, in Zagreb, Yugoslavia and was accepted by Mrs. Kathleen G. Drope, national IODE president.

His Excellency, the Governor-General in a brief talk complimented the IODE in that "You have in the past 50 years of service, shown profound faith in our country, have played no small part in encouraging faith in Canadian traditions and in Canada's future. . . . But you are not content with the expression of ideas, the promotion of great principles. You believe that works should accompany faith. What you have done in the fields of welfare, in both peace and war, is prodigious. Your postwar plans in the realm of education were bold and imaginative and before long took concrete form. The scholarships you have made available to Canadian students, for more than 30 years, have opened doors of opportunity for many young men and women in this country."



Few and well-spaced ornaments are effective.

Avoid Clutter

SIMPLICITY is the keynote of architectural design today. We see this principle carried out in new houses and other buildings. Lines are straight and clean. There is little fuss in the trim detail. The same idea is carried out in interior woodwork and decoration of walls. Large, plain areas add to the sense of spaciousness and help to create a feeling of rest and comfort.

To make a room more attractive and restful, avoid clutter wherever possible. Your furnishings may not be of the very latest design but their attractiveness is increased by having only a few ornaments, well spaced. Examine each piece with a critical eye; the bookcase, end-tables, the dining table, radio-phonograph, piano and the buffet. Are they cluttered with things which should not be placed there? Clutter of school books, old magazines, the children's playthings, the week's mail add a restive note to a room.

There is a simple beauty to a single bowl filled with fruit or flowers set upon the buffet. The illustration shows a double-tiered bowl of fruit at one end and an old scale at the other. Perhaps you have some old blue Wedgewood or glass piece that you like to have set out. The pieces may be changed from time to time but keep them few and well spaced. Don't feel that you must have a picture hanging above the sideboard. A bare wall is sometimes the most effective background.—L. P. Bell.

The Jubilee and Kitchens

AS intimate as a round-robin family letter, is the well deserved comment concerning *Homemakers' Kitchens*, a 350-page cookbook just published. It was compiled by the members of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs, working on various topics assigned to clubs in 27 districts. In style, makeup and general attractiveness it far surpasses any group effort in this line, which we have hitherto seen. It may well become a collector's item as a souvenir of Saskatchewan's 50th birthday.

We are reminded by Edith Rowles of the University's College of Home Economics, that the birthday year "offers many opportunities to prove again that food is an important part of any celebration." In a brief introduction Mrs. Wallace Thompson, provincial president, writes: "Early settlers gave freely of food and hospitality to all who passed by on prairie trails." Ingredients native to Saskatchewan are used in some dishes as a reminder of the days when cooks developed their own techniques for serving native berries, fruits and game. There are also those dishes or combinations of food from products new on the market in recent years, which have become popular. All recipes are kitchen-tested.

What makes for intimacy in the book is that the contributions are reproduced in the handwriting of the person who submitted them. In it are names of people, who through the years have become well known in the province. Though Bertha G. Oxner writes from Chester, N.S., she is, through this book, back among friends and associates of many years' standing. Her historical note recalls the names of many who gave valiant assistance to Saskatchewan farm women who set themselves the task of forming an organization of their own and through it expressing themselves on many matters of interest to women and homemaking.

Many people assisted in the preparation of *Homemakers' Kitchens*: Extension Service staff members, artists and the Golden Jubilee Committee. It is interspersed with many attractive line drawings, some showing typical Saskatchewan features, others are light cartoon touches to the food pages.

Those who planned, contributed to text or illustration or assisted with its production are to be congratulated. Proceeds of sales will go toward financing Homemakers' projects.

Choice in Freezers

by LILLIAN VIGRASS

Advantages of ownership, points to consider when purchasing a home freezer



Upright freezer, with many shelves, requires minimum of floor space.

TODAY, the majority of rural homes in western Canada have electricity available to them. In areas where the lines have just been installed, even before the power is actually "in", the homemaker begins to plan for modern electrical equipment she can now have in her home—equipment that can save her time and energy, that will leave her some extra time from daily chores to be spent in more pleasant work at home or in the community.

One of the first large appliances many homemakers will want is a home freezer. And with good reason—for where can better use be made of a freezer than in the rural home with its supply of home-grown vegetables, meat, fowl and fruit?

If you plan on buying a freezer spend some time reading about, and discussing, the best kind to buy before making the actual purchase. Study the literature, talk with sales representatives, with people in town or country who own freezers. Ask about the type they have, the features they like best about them. Knowledge of what to look for and time spent in shopping around will mean lasting satisfaction and greater returns on one's investment.

Look for a freezer that will remain at safe freezing temperatures at all times, that is adaptable to the needs of your family and that is easy to use. Consider the advantages of the upright and chest models. Inquire about construction and insulation and the method of cleaning. Other special conveniences may be stressed by the dealers of different makes and models.

Each has its advantages, but remember that these may add to the cost with little difference to the operation of the freezer.

One will probably want some special features for they will help in making better use of the freezer. But do not be carried away by an over-enthusiastic salesman who emphasizes chiefly the convenience features. Whether or not they are worth the money depends on one's own particular needs, likes and dislikes.

ADVANTAGES in owning a freezer are many. The greatest advantage, perhaps, is for the family which produces its own food. Preserved by freezing, food has a garden-fresh flavor throughout the year. Fewer hours are spent in the hot kitchen than with the canning methods previously used and the total amount of time and energy spent in preserving is reduced to a minimum.

For others, who buy all their food, there is a season of the year when most foods are cheap and plentiful. It is the time, too, when it is at its tastiest, high in nutrients, color and quality. Foods preserved by freezing at the proper season assure high quality foods throughout the year, at a minimum of cost.

Shopping done in quantity usually means lower prices. Fewer trips to town for fresh vegetables, fruits and meat are necessary and the chore of cleaning and putting away purchases after shopping trips is substantially reduced.

With the use of a home freezer homemakers have learned to cook

enough for several meals at once and freeze the excess. Often this involves little more time and trouble than making a single meal. Pies, cakes, soup, French fried potatoes are but a few of the many dishes that can be prepared in this way. Turkey, roast beef, chili con carne and baked beans need be eaten for only one meal at a time. The excess is stored in the freezer to be brought out and used, not as a leftover, but a food you haven't had for some time.

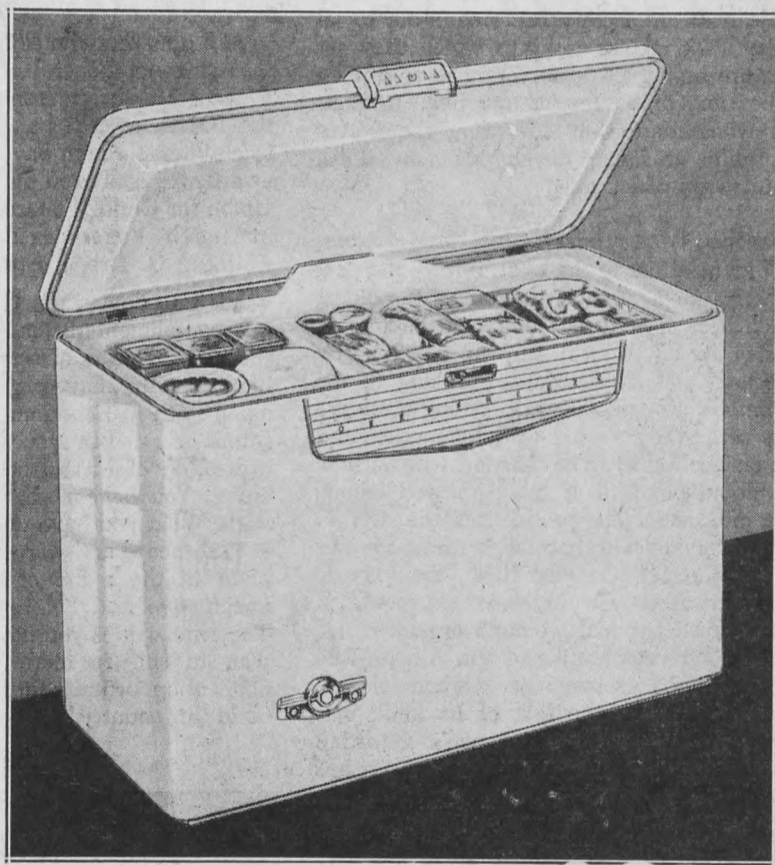
With proper planning there is always plenty of food on hand ready to serve at short notice. When it is too wet, you are too busy for a shopping trip, late getting home from a meeting or afternoon tea or when unexpected guests arrive just before mealtime, a tasty meal can be quickly prepared from the reserve in the freezer.

A freezer, therefore, makes for economy in time and energy and means, perhaps, a rise in the quality of the meals served throughout the year. There is a saving, too, to be made in actual dollars and cents. But these economies should be balanced against the initial cost of the freezer, upkeep, electricity charges and costs

some meat and baked goods is a good starting point in determining the size. A family of four to six then will need a 12 to 16-cubic-foot size. For a larger family or if you plan to make maximum use of the freezer you may need an 18-cubic-foot size.

Take into account the amount of fruit and vegetables you plan to freeze, rather than can, for winter use, the amount of meat to be frozen and how much frozen pre-cooked food will be used during the year. A 12-cubic-foot freezer accommodates approximately 500 pounds of food at one time.

A combination of home freezer and storage-plant locker is a good idea for the family that intends to store a whole or half meat carcass at one time. The locker plant offers an expert meat-cutting and wrapping service. All the meat can be frozen in a few hours and a locker is less expensive to operate than the same space in a freezer. A small freezer may then be all one needs to supplement the rented locker space. Or you may need a larger size if you intend to do most of the preserving by freezing as well



Chest model, with baskets, makes for compact, adjustable storage.

of packaging. The home freezer, like your vacuum cleaner, refrigerator and other electrical appliances is a convenience and an advance in living standards rather than a money-saving device.

WHAT size to buy? This is one of the biggest decisions to be made by the householder about to purchase a home freezer. The size of family and the number of extra meals usually served are perhaps the most important factors. A three-foot capacity for each member of the family, if you plan to use the freezer for fruit, vegetables,

as take advantage of all the other economies a freezer can provide.

Often, bringing several weeks' supply of frozen meat from the locker in town at one time is better than trying to cope with a really huge home freezer. A freezer takes up a fairly large area. The largest may need as much as 18 square feet of floor space, any freezer requires more space than a refrigerator. A loaded freezer is heavy so make sure the floor beneath it is able to bear the load or provide braces underneath in the basement. Make sure before you buy a freezer that it is not too large to



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carry through doorways or around corners to the selected location.

Remember that although large freezers cost less per cubic foot to buy and operate than the small freezer empty space must also be paid for and refrigerated. If you can make use of the space by all means buy a large one, but if you do not fill a large freezer a small one is more economical. Dr. A. L. Shewfelt of the Fruit and Vegetable Division of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Morden expressed the opinion that with planning a 12-cubic-foot freezer should be large enough for the average family.

THERE are two main types of freezers—the upright which is similar to an oversized refrigerator and the chest or top-opening box type freezer. Each type has its advantages and disadvantages depending on your home, your own personal likes and dislikes. Convenience and accessibility depend mainly on the design of the individual freezer rather than on the choice of type.

The majority of homes have the chest-type freezer. It sells at a definitely lower price than the upright of the same capacity. There is a greater variation in sizes and many chests have more adjustability within making it easier to store irregularly shaped or slippery parcels than in the upright.

A good part of the upright's contents can be reached without bending or stooping. Too-deep shelves or a box that is too wide from front to back, may mean a lot of shifting and moving of parcels before the required package is available. This is overcome in many of the newer upright models by a deeper door with space for a second lot of shelves. The upright definitely requires less floor space than the chest and, if you have a small home or lack storage space, this may be the deciding factor. An upright, with cooling coils located in the shelves as well as the top and bottom of the box, has a more even temperature distribution than the chest, where the top few inches of space are liable to be warmer than the rest of the box. Chest models have cooling coils in the sides, some have coils in the bottom as well, others an extra freezing compartment.

For compactness and low-cost space the chest should be quite deep; for easy access to the stored food it needs to be shallow and raised from the floor. The woman who is short or stout may have difficulty reaching to the bottom of the deep chest. A decision must be made by you, the homemaker, as to which is the more important.

The metal baskets with which a chest freezer is equipped can be a help in making the stored food more accessible. Loaded baskets weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds, hence the type that slides is better than the one which must be lifted each time food from beneath is wanted. Before buying it is a good idea to check for ease in moving a sample basket load as well as the length of reach to the bottom layer. Check, too, on the lid of the chest freezer. A lid, counter-balanced with springs so that it will remain open even when jarred, will do away with the danger of a banged head or crushed hand.

A freezer, to keep its contents at maximum quality, must be able to
(Please turn to page 61)

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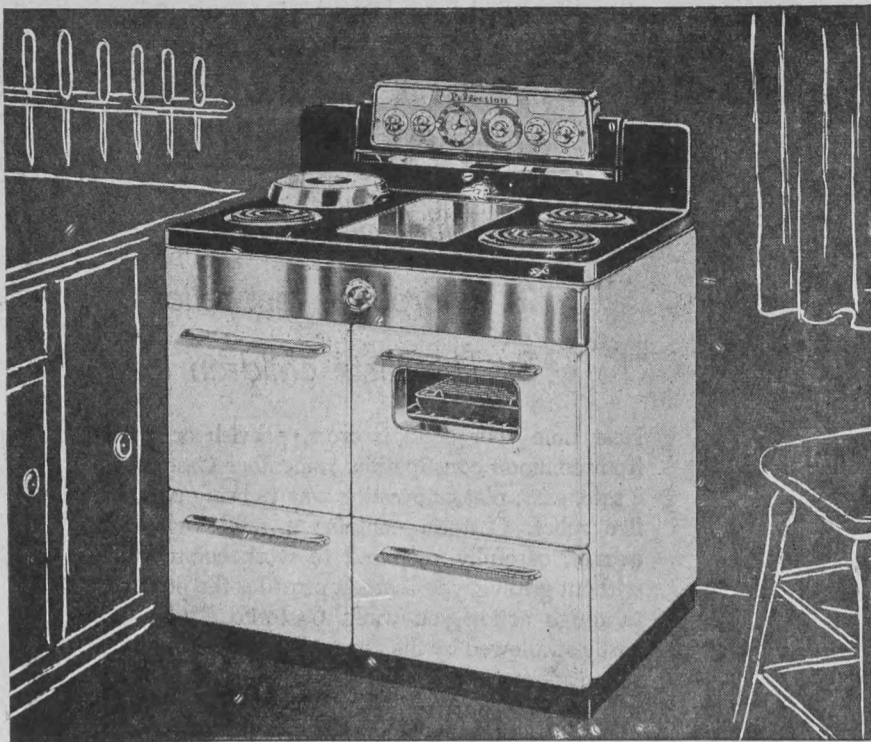
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WINNIPEG CANADA

Choosing the Dressing

Salad variations are easy with a selection of dressings at hand

SUMMER salads are at their best now that a large variety of crisp, young garden greens are ready for use. So plan on serving at least one salad a day. Vary the ingredients, use a new dressing or add a new flavor to an old favorite. The family will give wholehearted approval.

A new salad dressing can change the most simple selection of ingredients into a delightfully different salad. Add whipped cream to basic salad dressing or mayonnaise for a fruit salad; an extra dab of mustard for meat salads. For green and tossed salads the selection is even larger. Chopped pickle, olives, green pepper, drained relish or chili sauce makes a delightful addition. A mixture of mayonnaise and French dressing makes an entirely new dressing and a dressing made with fruit juice is delicious with a light vegetable or fruit salad.

Keep the ingredients cold and crisp. Tear the greens into bite-size pieces, cut the fruits and cooked foods into fairly large chunks and chop the onion and celery very fine. Mix with a light hand and add the dressing just before serving.

Low-Calorie Dressing

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 2 tsp. cornstarch | 1½ tsp. white |
| 1 tsp. mustard | sugar |
| 2 tsp. salad oil | 1 egg yolk |
| Dash cayenne | 2 tsp. vinegar |
| ¾ c. milk | ½ tsp. salt |

Mix cornstarch, mustard, salad oil and sugar. Heat milk to scalding; add a little to mixture then mix all and return to heat. Cook until smooth. Beat egg yolk, add vinegar, salt and cayenne. Add to above mixture and continue cooking 1 minute. Makes 6 to 7 ounces.

Mayonnaise

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| ¼ tsp. mustard | 1 egg yolk |
| ½ tsp. salt | 2 T. vinegar |
| Few grains pepper | 1 c. salad oil |
| ½ tsp. paprika | |

Mix mustard, salt, pepper, and paprika. Add egg yolk and mix well. Add 1 T. vinegar, add oil a few drops at a time, beating constantly with an egg beater. As it thickens oil may be added more quickly. Add remaining tablespoon of vinegar.

Many Island Dressing

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 T. drained | 1 c. mayonnaise |
| pickled relish | 1 T. chopped |
| 1 T. chopped | parsley |
| stuffed olives | 2 tsp. catsup |
| 2 T. chopped | Dash of cayenne |
| celery | |

Use purchased or homemade mayonnaise. Chop vegetables very fine. Mix all ingredients and chill. Serve liberally on lettuce wedges or tossed green salad.

Thousand Islands Dressing

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 c. mayonnaise | 1 chopped hard- |
| ¼ c. drained chili | cooked egg |
| sauce | 2 T. chopped |
| 2 T. chopped | stuffed olives |
| green pepper | |

Mix and use on tomato or green salads.

Boiled Salad Dressing

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| ½ c. sugar | 1 egg |
| 1 tsp. salt | ½ c. v'n-gar |
| 1 T. cornstarch | 1 c. light cream |
| 1 tsp. dry mustard | |

Mix sugar, mustard, cornstarch and salt in top of double boiler. Beat in egg. Add vinegar and light cream or mixture of half milk and half cream. Cook over boiling water. If curdles, beat well with egg beater. Cook, stirring often, for 30 minutes. Store in jar in refrigerator. To use dilute with thick cream or whipped cream, if desired. As a special dressing for tossed green and fruit salads replace sugar with ½ c. honey. Beat well once or twice during cooking period with egg beater. Mix with small amount cream or whipped cream at serving time.

Fruit-Salad Dressing

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 3 eggs | 1 pint whipped |
| ¾ c. vinegar | cream |
| 1 T. butter | 1 tsp. dry mustard |
| 2 T. sugar | |

Beat egg yolks, add vinegar. Mix mustard and sugar with butter. Add egg yolk and vinegar mixture. Cook over boiling water until thick. Stir in beaten egg whites. Cool. Before using stir in whipped cream.

Pineapple Juice Dressing

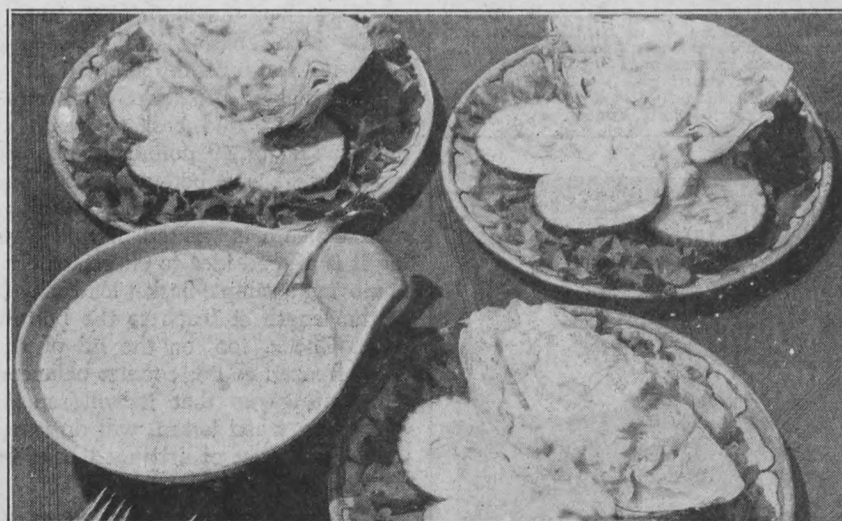
- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 2 eggs | ½ c. pineapple |
| 2 T. sugar | juice |
| ½ T. flour | ½ c. whipping |
| 1 T. lemon juice | cream |

Beat eggs thoroughly in top of double boiler. Mix sugar, flour and pineapple juice and stir into eggs. Place over boiling water. Cook 15 minutes or until mixture is thick. Cool well. Add lemon juice. Whip cream and add to mixture. Makes 1½ c. dressing. Especially good for fruit salads.

Sour Cream Dressing

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| ½ c. sour cream | ¼ tsp. celery seed |
| ½ tsp. salt | or 1-2 T. horse- |
| ½ tsp. sugar | radish or 2 T. |
| ½ T. lemon juice | chives |
| 1 T. vinegar | Dash cayenne |

Whip cream. Stir in seasonings gradually. Add celery seed to dressing used with cole slaw; chives with cottage cheese salad; horseradish with potato, cucumber, or lettuce.



Lettuce wedges served with Many Island Dressing makes a cool, refreshing summer salad.

Come for Dessert

The torte is a new dessert to serve in a new way at a dessert party

THE next time you plan to have friends in for the afternoon ask them for a dessert party. It is a new idea, enjoyed by all who have tried it. Warn them not to eat dessert for lunch, ask them to come early and serve them your own special dessert.

The torte, similar to a richly flavored, well-topped cake, is a new idea in desserts. It is quite simple to make and filling enough that the only extra you need serve is tea, coffee or, perhaps, iced lemonade.

Serve squares of torte on your prettiest tea plates. Provide dessert forks and serviettes. It is a simple but delightful way of entertaining friends.

Mallow-Walnut Torte

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 c. walnuts | 1½ tsp. plain gelatin |
| 3 eggs | 1 egg |
| ¾ c. sugar | 1 square chocolate |
| 1 c. fine dry bread crumbs | ¼ c. sugar |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | 6 marshmallows |
| ¼ tsp. salt | ¼ c. whipping cream |
| ½ tsp. cinnamon | ½ c. walnuts |
| 1 c. milk | |

Chop walnuts fine. Beat eggs until light and lemon-colored; beat in sugar a little at a time. Combine crumbs, walnuts, baking powder, salt and cinnamon; fold into egg mixture. Turn into greased 8-inch pan. Bake in moderate oven, 325° F., 40 to 45 minutes. Cool in pan.

Soften gelatin in ¼ c. milk. Beat egg yolk lightly. Combine remaining milk, egg yolk, chocolate which has been finely cut, sugar and salt. Stir over hot water until slightly thickened. Blend in softened gelatin; stir until dissolved. Cool until mixture thickens. Fold in marshmallows, cut in eighths, stiffly beaten egg white, whipped cream and walnuts. Spoon over cooled torte and chill until firm. Cut in squares to serve. Serves 9.

Chocolate Chip Torte

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 2 eggs | ½ c. chocolate chips |
| 5 T. sugar | 2 c. graham cracker crumbs |
| ¾ c. milk | ¼ c. sugar |
| ¼ tsp. salt | ¼ c. melted butter |
| ½ tsp. vanilla | |
| 1 T. gelatin | |
| ¼ c. cold water | |

Add ¼ c. sugar and melted butter to graham cracker crumbs. Blend well. Place half in square 8-inch cake pan. Chill. Separate and beat egg yolks, add 2 T. sugar, milk and salt. Cook in double boiler until thick, stirring constantly. Add vanilla and gelatin which has been softened in cold water. Chill until partially set. Fold in egg whites which have been beaten until stiff with 3 T. sugar. Fold in chocolate bits. Pour into cooled cracker crust. Sprinkle remaining crumbs over and return to refrigerator. Serve chilled, garnished with whipped cream.

Graham Cracker Torte

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 c. graham cracker crumbs | ½ tsp. salt |
| ½ c. sugar | 2 eggs |
| ¼ c. melted butter | 1½ tsp. vanilla |
| 2½ c. milk | 1 T. butter |
| 2½ T. cornstarch | 2 bananas |

Crumble cracker crumbs well. Add ¼ c. sugar and melted butter. Blend well. Scald 2 c. milk. Add cornstarch, salt and



Mallow-walnut torte is a delightful dessert just right for any occasion.

¼ c. sugar, diluted in remaining ¾ c. milk. Bring to boil, stirring constantly. Cook over hot water 15 minutes. Beat eggs; add a little of hot mixture to beaten eggs; return to double boiler. Cook 3 minutes. Blend in 1 T. butter; cool; covered. Add vanilla.

To assemble place half prepared crumbs in straight-sided pan; cover with half filling. (Layer should be ¾-inch thick.) Cover with 2 sliced bananas. Add remainder of filling. Top with remaining crumbs. Pat down. Chill thoroughly. Cut in squares. Serves 6 to 8. Serve with a tablespoon of whipped cream on each serving.

Orange Ice-Box Cake

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 c. water | 1 c. whipping cream |
| ½ c. sugar | ¼ lb. marshmallows |
| 1 T. gelatin | 1 c. chopped nuts |
| 1 T. lemon juice | 1 sponge cake |
| ½ c. orange juice | |
| Pulp of 1 orange | |

Boil water and sugar for 20 minutes; soak gelatin in cold water to cover for 5 minutes; add to boiling syrup with lemon juice. Remove juice from orange; shred pulp. Add pulp and juice to syrup mixture. Chill until commences to thicken. Beat until light. Whip cream and quarter marshmallows; add to whipped mixture. Beat thoroughly to combine.

Bake sponge cake in loaf cake pan. When cold cut in thin slices. Use slices to line mold or bowl. Add filling—first a layer of orange mixture then a layer of crumbled sponge cake; continue until mold is full. Chill thoroughly. Before serving turn out of mold, cover with a half-inch layer of sweetened and flavored whipped cream. Garnish with orange slices.

Variations: Fill cake-lined mold with layers of ice cream and cake crumbs; top with whipped cream. Or use as filling your favorite fluffy gelatin dessert topped with whipped cream and garnished.

Raspberry Mold

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 qt. canned or stewed raspberries | 6 1-inch slices bread |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|

Cook raspberries (black currants, red currants or a mixture of berries) or heat canned fruit well. Butter 1½ to 2-quart mold, mixing bowl or other round bowl. Line with slices of bread about 1 inch thick from which crusts have been removed. Be careful to have a complete layer of bread. Fill with hot fruit. Cover with slices of bread. Place small plate over and add a weight. Have sufficient juice to soak bread well. Excess will rise over plate and can be drained off. Refrigerate for 24 hours. Unmold. Cover with a layer of sweetened and flavored whipped cream. Slice for serving.

Rich Old-Fashioned Strawberry Shortcake



Bake it with MAGIC and serve it with pride!

Better close the kitchen window when you open the oven door! This scrumptious Magic-made Shortcake is so delicate and feather-light it longs to take wings! Yet it holds its shape nobly as you drool on the crushed strawberries and pile high the snowy whipped cream. Heavenly days, what a feast!

Yes, Madam, for baking that's really festive, there's no substitute for the good old Magic way! Four generations of Canadian women have proved that Magic Baking Powder makes the very best of your recipe, of your chosen ingredients. Keep Magic on hand for all your baking... cakes, cookies, cup cakes and biscuits.



Costs less than 1¢ per average baking

INDIVIDUAL STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 cups sifted pastry flour | ½ cup chilled shortening |
| or 1¾ cups sifted all-purpose flour | 1 egg, well beaten |
| 3½ tsps. Magic Baking Powder | Milk |
| ½ tsp. salt | Soft butter or margarine |
| Pinch of grated nutmeg | Sweetened sliced strawberries |
| 3 tsps. fine granulated sugar | Lightly-sweetened whipped cream |
| | 6 whole strawberries |

Grease a cookie sheet. Preheat oven to 400° (hot). Mix and sift twice, then sift into a bowl, the flour, Magic Baking Powder, salt, nutmeg and sugar. Cut in the shortening finely. Combine the well-beaten egg and ¼ cup milk. Make a well in the flour mixture and add liquids; mix lightly with a fork, adding a little more milk, if necessary, to make a soft dough that is a little stiffer than a plain biscuit dough. Knead for 10 seconds on lightly-floured baking board and pat or roll out to ¾-inch thickness; shape with floured 2½-inch round cookie cutter. Arrange, well apart, on prepared cookie sheet; brush with milk. Bake in preheated oven 14 to 16 minutes. Split hot shortcakes and spread with butter or margarine; arrange bottom halves on individual serving plates and pile with sweetened sliced strawberries; cover with top halves of shortcakes. Top each shortcake with a spoonful of whipped cream—or with more fruit and cream—and add a whole berry. Yield—6 shortcakes.

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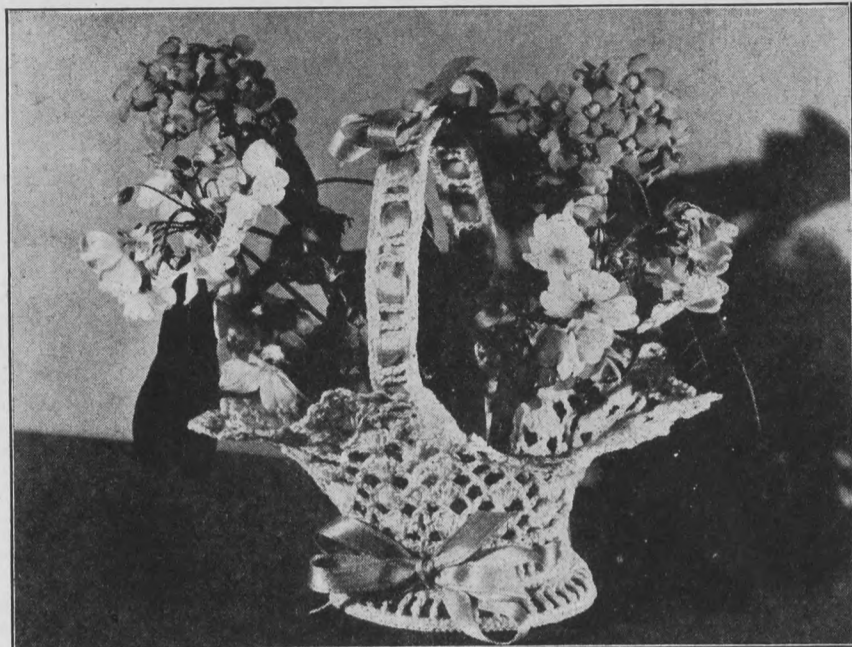
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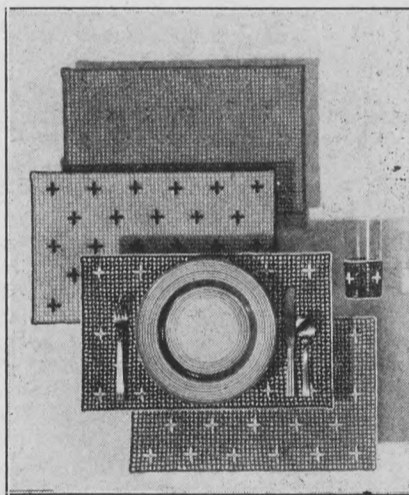
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accessories for home or bazaar



Design No. C-4032

There is a touch of summer in this gaily colored crocheted flower basket. The design is quick and easy to crochet; the basket is stiffened with starch or sugar and it is just the right

size for a small table or chest of drawers. You will need 1 large ball of size 30 crochet cotton in whatever color you choose, No. 10 or 11 steel crochet hook and 1 yard matching ribbon. Design No. C-4032. Price 10 cents.

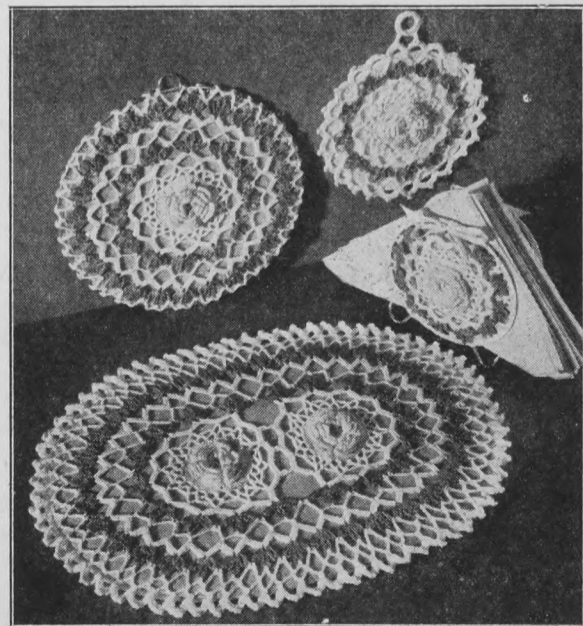


Design No. C-S-405

Simply made in double crochet these place mats of skipper blue or white with clematis flowers embroidered on are just right for summer dining. They add color and gaiety to kitchen, dining room or an outside table. They launder easily and they will wear for many seasons. The place mat measures 11 by 17½ inches and there are matching glass jackets included in the instructions. You will need 2 balls skipper blue or white cronita cotton for each and trim of alternating color; embroidery cotton and a No. 7 steel crochet hook. Clematis place mat is Design No. C-S-405. Price 10 cents.

Design No. FV-376

Hot place mats—or doilies if you prefer—feature the ever-popular rose motif. The flower design, done in shades of pink and raised from the rest of the mat, is set off by rows of green and white crochet. Included in this pattern are a round hot plate mat, a platter mat, pot holder and cover for a circular wire napkin holder. You will need a No. 7 hook; size 5 pearl cotton, 7 white, 2 green and 2 shaded pinks or cronita cotton, 3 white and 2 each green and shaded pinks. Rose set is Design No. FV-376. Price 10 cents.



Address your orders to The Country Guide Needlework Department, 290 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg 2, Manitoba.

Choice in Freezers

Continued from page 57

maintain a temperature of zero degrees Fahrenheit even under hot and humid conditions. If the temperature of the box is raised to five degrees even for some time the quality of the food will not suffer. Above this temperature the length of safe storage decreases by as much as one-third.

When food to be quick frozen is put into the freezer the temperature will rise. At no time add such a large load that the interior temperature rises above 15 degrees or that will take more than 24 hours to freeze. The best of the large freezers can freeze up to 75 pounds in 24 hours; most can handle 50 pounds. Small freezers can freeze only 25 pounds or less. For freezers of small freezing capacity or if the maximum amount of food is to be frozen at one time the controls should be set at the coldest position a day in advance.

THE ability of a freezer depends not only on its freezing capacity but also on the shape of the parcels to be frozen, the area of contact of each parcel with the cooling surface and the amount of food already in the freezer. The freezer compartments, found close to the top of some chests, unless they have special freezing coils, do not freeze food as quickly as the parcels in contact with the cooling surfaces in the sides or bottom of the box. An air space of two or three inches should be left between

the food to be frozen and the stored food if the entire contents are not to be unduly warmed by the new additions.

The construction of the box, the amount and kind of insulation and the tightness of the lid are important. Insulation should be at least three inches thick and of a type that will stay in position within the walls rather than settle to the bottom. The door or lid must have the same insulation and a rubber gasket fitted on the outer edge will make for closer fit. To test for tightness of the door insert sheets of paper between the wall and the door. They should be difficult to withdraw.

Cost of operation is a factor every would-be freezer owner needs to take into consideration. Cost is less per cubic foot of space for the larger models, although the total cost is considerably more for the largest than the smallest of freezers.

For freezers of the same size operating costs will vary depending on the cost of electricity in your locality; the temperature of the room where the freezer is situated; the construction of the box; the presence of excess frost on the inside walls and how often and how long the door is opened.

To make the best use of a freezer it must be constantly in use. In or near the kitchen is, perhaps, the best location. Keep it well away from the kitchen stove or a sunny area and try to avoid a hot or humid atmosphere. A porch or garage location means going out-of-doors each time a parcel is needed. The basement, a good loca-

tion for economy of operation, means trudging up and down stairs with heavy parcels. A cellar may be too damp for the mechanism of a freezer; if it must be located there cover the metal parts on the underside with aluminum paint and keep the exterior well waxed.

Many freezers have an interior light that comes on when the box is opened. The controls on most are adjustable; some are closely calibrated and easily adjusted to the exact desired temperature. A thermometer that records the temperature of the interior may be built into the freezer or it may be hung within. Many freezers have built-in locks or holes for padlocks.

SINCE a freezer usually contains a costly load of food an alarm system for mechanical or power failure is worth while. A loud buzzer, a bell that rings and warning lights, each set for a maximum of 15 degrees are the devices most often used. If the freezer is in the kitchen the light may be suitable but if it is located away from the living area a sound device is preferable. There is some question as to the need of a signal when a freezer is opened daily. If your freezer has no alarm system and you feel you need one, inquire from your dealer about an alarm that can be installed.

If there is a power failure or freezer breakdown do not open the door. Instead cover the freezer with blankets or many layers of paper. The contents should then remain at below-freezing temperatures for several days.

Like refrigerators, freezers need occasional defrosting. When the frost becomes one-quarter inch to one-half inch thick it should be scraped off the walls with a plastic scraper. After this point the costs of operation will mount although temperatures will continue constant for some time. Some manufacturers advise a complete defrosting once each year. To keep the foods frozen while defrosting pack them in a box, add dry ice, if available, and cover the box with many layers of newspapers or blankets. They will stay frozen for some time.

To cut down on the amount of rummaging necessary to find something in the large freezer the homemaker is advised to keep an inventory and check each parcel in and out. A recipe file box with filing cards is perhaps the most compact and most easily used. A large file envelope of cards may also serve the purpose. Each card should have noted on it the amount of the specific food in the freezer, the date before which it must be used and the size of the packages.

Some experienced homemakers will find that if each kind of food is kept in a different section of the freezer and used fairly quickly she can get along without an inventory.

Always keep a box of fuses on hand so that when one blows, you don't have to be in the dark until someone finds another. Sometimes these "black-outs" occur after stores are closed. If you have several fuses on hand that doesn't matter. Keep them in a convenient place so that you can put your hands on them with little trouble and without light.

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BASIC CHEESE DOUGH

Scald

- 1½ cups milk
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3 tablespoons shortening

Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm.

In the meantime, measure into a large bowl

½ cup lukewarm water

1 teaspoon granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved. Sprinkle with contents of

1 envelope Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes; THEN stir well. Stir in lukewarm milk mixture.

Stir in

- 2½ cups once-sifted bread flour and beat until smooth and elastic; stir in
- 1½ cups lightly-packed shredded old cheese

Work in

- 2½ cups more (about) once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl and grease top of dough. Cover and set dough in warm place, free from draught, and let rise until doubled in bulk. Turn out dough on lightly-floured board and knead lightly until smooth. Divide into portions and finish as follows:



1. CHEESE LOAF

Shape half a batch of dough into a loaf and fit into a greased bread pan about 4½ by 8½ inches. Grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderately hot oven, 375°, about 40 minutes—cover loaf with brown paper during latter part of baking to avoid crust becoming too brown.

2. MARMALADE BRAID

Roll out a quarter of a batch of dough into an 8-inch square on a lightly-floured board; loosen dough. Spread with ¼ cup marmalade and sprinkle with ¼ cup chopped nuts. Roll up jelly-roll fashion; seal edge and ends. Roll out into an oblong 9 inches long and 3 inches wide; loosen dough.

Cut oblong into 3 lengthwise strips to within an inch of one end. Braid strips, seal the ends and tuck them under braid. Place on greased cookie sheet. Grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderately hot oven, 375°, about 20 minutes.

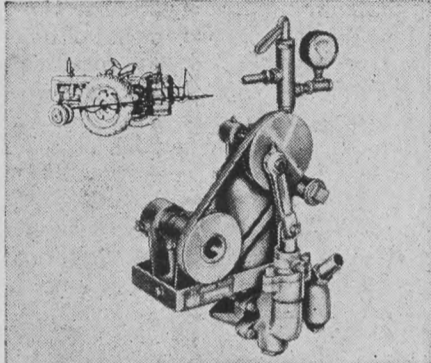
3. CHEESE BREAD STICKS

Cut a quarter of a batch of dough into 12 equal-sized pieces and roll, one at a time, into slim strips about 7 inches long. Brush strips with water and roll lightly in cornmeal. Place, well apart, on greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderately hot oven, 375°, about 10 minutes.

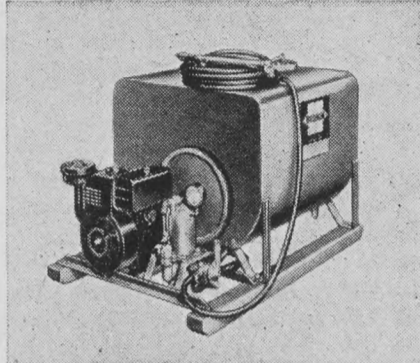
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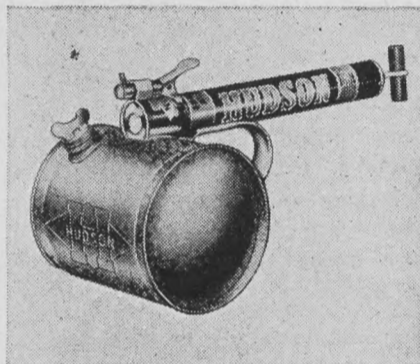
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Ammonia Lightens Work

In liquid or powder form this ready aid can be used for many household tasks

by D. ENGLAND

AS a cleansing agent, household ammonia is one of the labor savers in the house. It can be used in numerous ways—where washing soda is too strong, where soap cannot be used, or to add to the action of soap in cleaning and polishing. Homemakers find it easy on the hands.

Household ammonia, often referred to as liquid ammonia or, just, ammonia, is available in the soaps and cleansers section of the general or grocery store. Sal volatile or sal ammonia, a powdered ammonia product, can be safely used in place of household ammonia when dissolved in water. For a solution of the same strength add one ounce of sal ammonia to a pint of water.

If, for some reason such as dry or sensitive skin, you don't wish to use soap in washing face and hands or for a bath, a small amount of household ammonia can be added to the water with safety. Cloudy ammonia, made by mixing eight grains of yellow soap, about 20 drops of lavender water (purchased from a druggist) and one pint of household ammonia, may be best for this purpose. It cleans well and is refreshing.

At spring-cleaning time ammonia can often take the place or add to the efficiency of soap and scrubbing brush. A tablespoon of household ammonia added to the water used for washing the linoleum makes it clear and shining bright with little effort. Ammonia in solution cleans woodwork, it whitens wooden table tops and other unfinished wooden surfaces. Wicker chairs and baskets will look fresh and new if they are brushed well with water that has been softened with ammonia.

For windows that are very dirty a preliminary washing with a quarter cup of ammonia dissolved in warm water will make the cleaning and polishing much easier. Ammonia and water is excellent, too, for china, glass and silverware. Use hot sudsy water, add a small amount of ammonia; wash, rinse well and dry. Polish the silver with a dry, soft cloth and finish with a piece of chamois. The results will be gratifying.

Shabby gilt picture frames will brighten remarkably under the influence of a solution of household ammonia and to restore the lustre to a diamond rub a few drops of ammonia on the under side until it is sparkling bright.

When paint marks dry and become hard to remove from glass, cloth, wood or other surface, rub the spot with a mixture of equal amounts of ammonia and turpentine. The paint comes off in short order.

Brushes and combs, hard to clean because of an accumulation of hair oil, are more easily cleaned if they are first soaked in water to which a tablespoon of ammonia has been added.

Although the cleaning of large rugs is a job for experts, small rugs may be

shampooed with soap and ammonia. Add a small amount of ammonia to soap jelly. Whip with an egg beater until a very stiff suds is formed. Work the suds into the rug with a brush, covering approximately a two-foot square at a time. Remove the dirt and used suds with a dampened sponge or soft cloth, going over it until the last trace of suds is removed. Repeat until the entire rug is cleaned.

Grease and animal stains can be removed from a rug by the application of ammonia solution. For the animal stains sponge the spot first with a salt solution made by adding one-quarter cup salt to a pint of water. Do not dampen the rug excessively but sponge lightly several times. Make a weak solution of ammonia by adding one-quarter to one-third cup of household ammonia to a quart of water. Sponge the stained area well. Allow to dry, then repeat if necessary.

Grease stains on woolen material may be removed by sponging with a weak ammonia solution. Ammonia solution may be used with safety on other delicate fabrics where it will restore the color lost in fruit stains, animal and grease stains. Sponge lightly, feathering the edges so that a ring will not form.

Handy and Useful

by LOUISE PRICE BELL

ALWAYS have a good household wax on hand and with it keep wooden, linoleum and other surfaces well protected from water and other stains. Waxed pieces repel many ugly marks and make furniture and floors look "well groomed." Even when soiled by the youngsters' jam-covered fingers, waxed surfaces can be washed off with water and still look smooth and sleek.

Save a lot of dish-washing by using glass cookware. Foods cooked in this can be taken to the table in the same attractive containers. Besides the dish-washing saving, there is the advantage that the foods will keep hot longer.

Keep garden tools in repair and free from rust. If you buy them with unpainted handles, give the tops of handles a swab of some bright color, so that when loaned the borrowers will know whose tools they are. It is a good idea to keep a bottle of rust-remover on hand so that if tools are accidentally left outside, the rust that forms can be removed at once.

To avoid home accidents—and the National Safety Council claims most accidents occur in the home—be sure that you have a strong, sturdy step-ladder stool in your kitchen. And use it instead of wobbly chairs when you want to reach high shelves. Such a purchase serves as both stool and step-ladder so it is a practical, economical one.

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BABY'S OWN TABLETS

Fashions in the Sun



1188

No. 1188—Ship-shape and ready for action is this one-piece playsuit with sailor collar, patch pockets and pedal-pusher pants. Note, too, zipper front closing, elasticized waist and set-in sleeves. Not shown is a two-piece version with bare midriff. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 4 requires $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards 35-inch material. Price 35 cents.



1150

No. 1150—Boxer shorts and over-shirt are ready for plenty of action. The short sleeves are set in, the front has a one-button closing. The shorts have an elasticized waist and one hip pocket. Make a suit of easy-to-care-for terry cloth edged with plaid, others of brightly colored denims. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 4 requires $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards 35-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1184—Pretty enough for Sundays, so easy to make it could be a play dress is this sundress with its cover-up bolero jacket. The empire top has a V neck front and back. Skirt has princess lines. Short jacket is bound to match dress. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires $2\frac{3}{4}$ yards for dress; $\frac{7}{8}$ yard for jacket, 35-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1185—There is freedom for play in this inner-outer pullover shirt and well-pocketed shorts. Three-quarter sleeves are rolled and buttoned up. The collar is convertible. Pattern includes full-circle skirt and square-necked sun top. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires $3\frac{3}{4}$ yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1170 (not shown)—For mother, play-clothes wardrobe just like daughter's No. 1185. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 years. Size 14 shirt and shorts requires 4 yards 36-inch material. Price 50 cents.

No. 1186—A piped collar fitted onto the square neckline of this princess-line sundress makes it dressy enough for best. Omit the collar and bind the square neck and armholes for a playtime style. Make still another this fall for a pretty school jumper. Matching doll clothes included in pattern for dolls 14 to 21 inches high. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 4 requires 2 yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1187—A button-front dress takes but a short while to make; cuts down on ironing time; is easy to put on and take off. Tiny scalloped sleeves, collar and buttons contrast. Pattern includes bare-top sundress with three-tier skirt. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 4 requires $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 1145—Fashion right with its lowered waistline, this pattern fashions a sundress for now, a jumper for starting school this fall. A square neck, fitted bodice and gathered skirt are featured. Dress with sleeves also shown in pattern. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires $2\frac{7}{8}$ yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

Patterns are printed; instructions in English and French.

State size and number for each pattern ordered.

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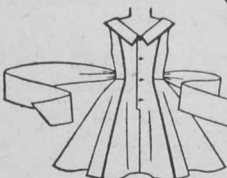
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1145



1186



1187

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To Kansans

Continued from page 9

of work in the Department the new test was believed to be able to measure the quantity and quality of protein in wheat in 15 minutes or less.

"Important as these programs are," said Mr. Benson, "let us never lose sight of the fact that farmers themselves through their individual efforts can make equally valuable contributions to a solution of our most pressing wheat problems. . . All of the government's efforts—the loan program, expanded storage facilities, export subsidies and increased emphasis upon quality factors—will be largely nullified, unless farmers assume one great responsibility which is properly theirs. The government can't grow improved varieties of wheat. The job can be done only on the farms of America."

" . . Kansas is devoting far too much acreage to weak and medium gluten varieties."

MR. BENSON said that the CCC had acquired 41 per cent of the 1,169,000,000-bushel crop of 1953. This included 57 per cent of the white wheat produced in the North-west (Pacific), 49 per cent of the hard red winter wheat grown in Kansas and eight neighboring states, 34 per cent of the hard red spring wheat from the Northern Plains states, and 33 per cent of the soft red winter wheat grown in the Mid-west. Hard red winter wheat accounted for about 43 per cent of all the wheat acquired by the government during the 1953-54 year.

Meanwhile, he said, the percentages of the different types of wheat going into domestic food consumption were: hard red winter, 39 per cent; soft red winter, 50 per cent; hard red spring, 64 per cent; durum, 80 per cent. The hard red winter wheat grown in Kansas and adjoining states was used for food in the U.S. to a far less extent than some other classes of wheat.

Here, the Secretary referred to proposals for a two-price or multiple-price program for wheat in the United States. Such plans, he pointed out, have been introduced during the present session of Congress.

In simple terms, the plan is that the farmer would receive probably 100 per cent of parity for the 500 million bushels of wheat used for food inside the United States, and the remainder of his crop would be supported at a much lower rate, or seek its own price level in export markets, or the large livestock feed outlets inside the United States. Should the producer of the poor wheat be supported at 100 per cent of parity as well as the producer of high quality wheat or the Dakota farmer who produced top quality hard spring wheat for the commercial trade? If so, the two-price or multiple-price plan would, he said, "fall far short of its announced objective of fair compensation to the farmer for the portion of his wheat production which moves into domestic food use. Instead, it would perpetuate the injustices of the old, rigid price plan, which treated all wheat as virtually the same for the loan purposes. This concept unquestionably was a major con-

tributing factor to the shift toward high-yielding, low-quality wheats and the resultant surpluses which hang as an albatross about the necks of American wheat farmers everywhere."

(Repeatedly during his remarks Secretary Benson referred to farmers who, instead of producing for the market, produced primarily for a government loan.)

He referred also to current efforts in Congress to restore price supports at 90 per cent of parity for the basic commodities. He struck hard at high, fixed price supports. "It ought to be clear by now," he said, "that the very program of rigid supports which contributed so greatly to our present problem will never solve them. The entire drop in farm prices and total farm income since the Korean War peak of February, 1951, came about while we had supports at 90 per cent of parity. Flexible price supports do not even become effective until 1955 crops move to market."

MR. BENSON related in some detail the history of the 90 per cent price supports in the United States. He pointed out that they were always supposed to be temporary, and that before World War II flexible price supports existed for the basic commodities—including wheat. The platforms of both major parties in 1948 also endorsed a return to flexible price supports, as did the then president of the United States and his secretary of agriculture. The Agricultural Acts of 1948 and 1949 embodied this principle, but the outbreak of the Korean War postponed the effective date for flexible price supports. "Essentially," said Mr. Benson, "the Agricultural Act of 1954 cleared the way for the act of 1949 to become effective as scheduled, but limited the range of flexibility between 82½ and 90 per cent of parity for 1955, with the full flexibility of the law (75 to 90 per cent of parity) to apply in subsequent years.

"Experience clearly demonstrates that rigid price supports are self-defeating," he said. "They freeze agricultural production in unbalanced and uneconomic products. They discourage efficient utilization of farm resources, and finally, when the surpluses which inevitably follow rigid supports make it necessary to apply controls, the farmer who has been growing quality products for the market, finds himself in the same production strait jacket as a man who has been using the government loan program for a dumping ground. The long-term interests of agriculture demand a safer, surer and more workable approach to our problem."

After referring to the fact that the Commodity Credit Corporation had acquired a total of 847 million bushels of storage capacity, and increases in its borrowing authority up to \$10 billion, the Secretary referred to public law 480 (the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954). Under this Act agreements have been signed with 11 nations for the sale of \$226 million worth of surplus farm commodities in exchange for foreign currencies. Of this amount nearly one-third represents wheat. Such sales, according to the law, must be in addition to the usual marketings of the U.S. In addition, the President may use surplus agricultural commodities to meet famine and urgent relief

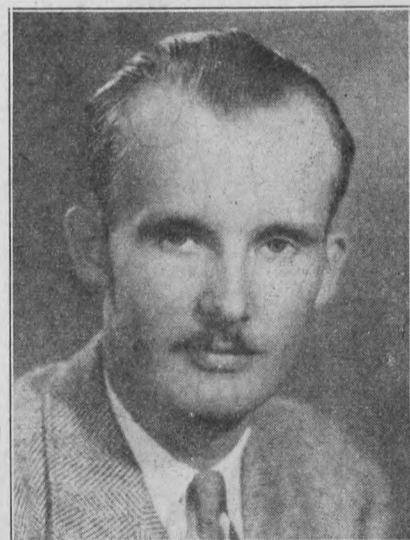
needs in other areas of the world. Likewise, surplus commodities may be bartered for other products, and 45 million bushels of wheat have been traded for metals and other strategic materials. Finally, the Foreign Operations Administration must use not less than \$350 million for the purchase of surplus agricultural commodities for its purposes.

THE Secretary concluded his remarks by calling attention to the need for better balanced production. "We need," he said, "to encourage increased research and education. We need more marketing efficiency. We need to find new markets and expand existing ones. We must be competitive." He went on to suggest the need for alternative and profitable crops in such states as Kansas. He pointed out that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has more than \$700,000 available for wheat research alone during the present fiscal year, and a similar amount for next year. As recently as 1947 the money available for wheat research was only \$272,000. Most of the great gains of agriculture had come from research, education and market development. They offer, he believed, the surest approach to many U.S. farm problems.

"My own experience in Washington," he said, "has only strengthened my conviction that farmers through their individual and co-operative efforts can do more for themselves than the government could ever do for them. Moreover, I believe farmers are too realistic and too self-reliant ever to barter away the freedom to make their own decisions."

Appointments and
Resignations

SECRETARY of the Board of Grain Commissioners, K. Hlynka, of Winnipeg, has resigned to accept a position at the main laboratory of Continental Baking Company, New York. A native of Edmonton, Mr. Hlynka has served the board as secre-



K. Hlynka

tary for two years, and as an administrative assistant in its Grain Research Laboratory for 14 years. Previously he was with the National Research Council at Ottawa.

The University of Saskatchewan has announced the appointment of Dr. Charles D. Stewart of Central Butte as professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering. Dr. Stewart will replace Professor O. L. Symes who recently resigned.

Same Range— More Cattle

Fred, Sandy and Vince Coffey agree on big, rugged grade Herefords for profit



Part of Coffey's herd of Herefords—farm money makers.

A VIRTUE may become a fault if pressed too far. Take the desire on the part of the Coffeys of Carlyle, Sask., to have everything on the farm producing: it gave them a herd of horses for which they had no real use. "We had this pair of thoroughbred mares and I felt that they ought to be producing something so I took colts from them," said Fred Coffey. "The herd of horses grew and Sandy finally called a halt. He said we were getting just too many horses!"

Sandy is the operating partner. Fred, his dad, lives in Regina, and his brother Vince works in the city, but has an interest in the farm and works at home in the busy seasons.

There are 1,500 acres of cropland on the farm. The special interest of the owners is in the 225-head grade Hereford herd. "We had 90 calves dropped a year ago," said Sandy. "We'll have 120 this year, and may push it higher."

The key to this increase is a change in herd management. The partners used to sell long two-year-olds, but are now selling long yearlings instead. The smaller animals find a ready market, and the grass saved permits running a larger cow herd. Also, if the stock marketed are smaller, there are more of them.

The Coffeys are anxious that small size should be due to age and not to breeding. Sandy Coffey sounded a note that is heard across the prairies: "We have had a lot of trouble getting the kind of bulls we want," he said. "We are looking for big bulls that will sire growthy calves. We can buy any

number of the small, handy, tight kinds, but we want rugged bulls with lots of bone.

They want more calves for the same reason that they want them bigger—to make more money out of their cattle. Sandy and a man look after the herd in the winters. "One man could look after them, but he'd be tied here tight, and he would have to work very hard," said Sandy. The two men could look after a larger herd quite easily.

THE line is held on costs, in part, by the availability of fairly cheap range, but management also helps. The cattle pick through bales of straw on the snow, and lie on the straw they don't eat. They can bed down in an open-end, rough shed, but most of them settle for straw in the shelter of trees. Hay is hauled into the yard in mild weather and is also fed on the snow. There is no winter barn cleaning. The open shed and yards are periodically cleaned with a hydraulic fork or fresno, but it is done in the summer.

The calves, too, are in an open-end shed in the barnyard. Most are fed grain and hay in the winter and go onto grass in the spring. Some are put on grain at weaning time and stay on grain until June or July of the next year when they are shipped. This is the exception; most of the cattle are sold off grass.

The growth of the cattle herd has rung the death knell on a one-time busy hog enterprise. The Coffeys used to run 100 to 150 hogs, but they are now down to a couple of litters a year.

Then there are the horses. They started out with a pair of half-



Thoroughbred horses on the Coffey farm at Carlyle, Saskatchewan.

[Guide photos

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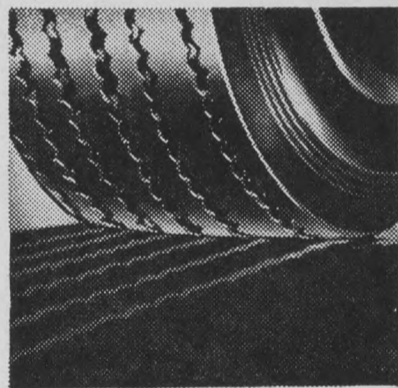
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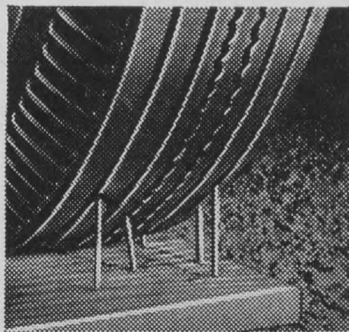
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thoroughbred mares and built the bunch up to eight head, the colts all being three-quarters thoroughbred.

The original Coffey in the district started with a quarter-section in 1882, and built it up to three quarters. His son, Fred, added some more, and today, with Sandy and Vince active, the farm has spread out over an eight-section tract.

Sandy's sons, Dennis, Cameron and Patrick, are still little boys. But little boys very quickly become big boys, and these newer helpers some day may extend the farm-ranch borders still further. V

Wheat . . . Headache For Uncle Sam

AS of February, Uncle Sam had 1,872 million bushels of wheat on hand that he didn't know what to do with. It was enough to meet all the domestic and export requirements of the United States for more than two full years, and was taking up more than one-third of all of the government money invested in price-supported farm products.

U.S. wheat price supports have been at 90 per cent "old" parity, which is equivalent to about 105 per

cent of modernized or "new" parity. The new provisions enacted last year by The Congress for flexible price supports will not go into effect on wheat until the 1955 crop is marketed, and the transition from old to new parity will start only with the 1956 crop.

The national wheat allotment for 1955 has been reduced 23 million acres below the 1953 acreage, to 55 million acres. It is estimated, however, that, with average yields, even this lower acreage will produce almost as much wheat as is now required by both domestic and foreign markets in any year.

Consequently Ezra Taft Benson, secretary of agriculture, asked the National Agricultural Advisory Commission, the chairman of which is Dean W. I. Myers, of Cornell University, to review the wheat surplus situation and consider problems related to this crop. These problems involve changes in the food habits of

A pat on the back develops character if administered young enough, often enough and low enough.—*Russell County News.*

U.S. people, sound methods of expanding use of wheat for feed, the question of grading and classifying market wheat, the advisability of land-use programs having to do with the use of marginal lands, and the advisability of establishing controls on a bushel, rather than on an acreage basis. V

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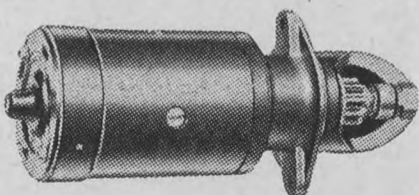
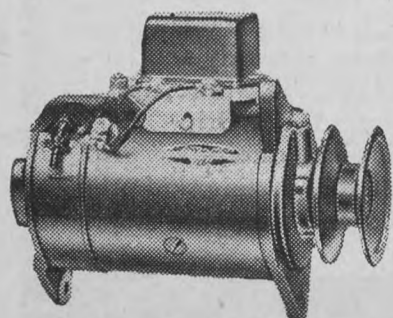
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Early Haying For Dairy Farming

GORDON PRITCHARD sacrificed maximum hay yields in the summer of 1954, by cutting the first field in early July. He did it purposely, with a view to harvesting high-protein feed on his foothills farm, west of Midnapore, and saving it while the weather was good. He didn't guess then how fortunate the decision was. By the end of July, most of his hay was baled and stacked, or in the barn. It was green and nutritious, the kind that is needed for a high-producing dairy herd.

Then, the weather turned wet. He lost hay after that, and many neighbors lost more. But his own feed situation was already saved, when much of western Canada was preparing to enter winter with one of the poorest quality hay crops in history.

Mr. Pritchard has been farming in the foothills country for only five years, moving from Camrose where his home farm dried out. He is building a new enterprise with dairy cattle. It is more confining, he admits, than the beef herd that he grew up with, but it is also more dependable.

Although short of funds when he moved to the foothills, he had a deep desire for a farm of his own. A well-established farmer, whom he knew, offered to help. Soon, the cows were provided, on shares. Although he sold the herd last fall to straighten up the loan, Gordon says now that the arrangement worked to the advantage of both. He took 80 per cent of the milk revenue himself, while the remainder of the milk cheque and the entire calf crop were turned over to his creditor. It enabled him to get his start, and gave the lender a good return on the money he invested.

Now, his goal of building and running a healthy farm business is well in sight. One of his two quarters are seeded to alfalfa, brome and creeping red fescue. The remainder of the farm provides natural grazing for the herd in summer. He has a fluid milk contract in the Calgary market. A trim and freshly painted house for his wife and three young sons, and the newly built stanchion barn, like the house, white and trimmed with red, make neat and cozy quarters for all on the farm. It's a solid nucleus for a sound farm enterprise.—D.R.B. V

COPENHAGEN



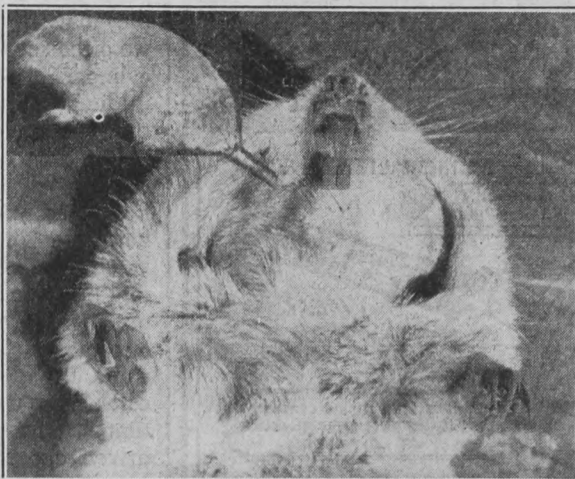
"THE WORLD'S BEST CHEW"

Saskatchewan's Pocket Gophers

Bad-tempered, unsocial and persistent, the pocket gopher is seldom seen

by H. H. PITTMAN

A pocket gopher on its back, revealing the powerful incisors, the capacious fur-lined pouches, and the strong forefeet and long claws which enable them to burrow for food.



VISITORS to the great plains of Manitoba and Saskatchewan are often surprised by the numbers of little heaps of earth in many places, and it is usually hard to convince them that these are not mole-hills. The heaps generally measure about 18 inches across, although occasionally much larger ones are found, and have no visible entrances. A little gentle prodding reveals an opening in the turf below and shows where the earth came from, but yields no information about the creatures responsible, which the casual observer assumes must be moles. No moles live on the prairie between southeastern Manitoba and British Columbia, however, and these little hillocks, sometimes so numerous and annoying, are really the work of a highly specialized group of rodents, the pocket gophers.

Naturalists state that the work of these animals improves and aerates the soil and that they are as beneficial as the earthworms of the English countryside, but farmers and gardeners generally think otherwise. The hills are nearly always where the richest soil occurs, such as cultivated fields, gardens or hay meadows, and frequently impede, or even break, the machinery used in harvesting the crops. The animals feed upon roots and tubers and naturally enough find food most abundant where the land is best. They like the ground to be a little damp, or sheltered by a thick growth of vegetation and lawns and gardens provide the latter, as well as a good supply of edible roots. My own lawns are honeycombed with their tunnels which provide passageways for ground squirrels, snakes and other unwelcome visitors, long after the original tenants have been destroyed.

Pocket gophers are peculiar to North America and are very numerous in some places. They belong to the family Geomyidae which is divided into several genera, two of which, Geomys and Thomomys, occur on the western plains. The former apparently reaches the extreme northern limit of its range here but the latter is common and a number of geographical races or sub species are recognized. One of these, the Saskatchewan pocket gopher (*Thomomys talpoides talpoides*) is plentiful where I am writing, and is the species shown in the photograph.

Members of this genus are greyish-brown rodents about the size of a rat. Their heads are blunt and broad and have a fur-lined pouch on each side with an external opening on the cheek.

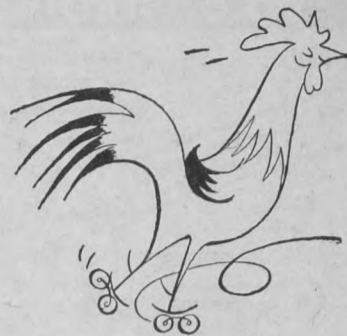
These pouches or pockets are so large and elastic that a finger and thumb placed in them will almost meet at the back of the neck. They are filled and emptied by the front paws or feet and when fully distended make the animal look as if it is suffering from a severe attack of mumps. The familiar ground squirrels have cheek pouches too, but the openings are inside their mouths.

The legs are rather short, but the fore limbs are very powerful and have long and strong claws for digging. The hairy tail is short, but is said to be very sensitive and used as a guide when the animal is moving backwards in a tunnel. The ears are small and inconspicuous. The skull shows some interesting structural modifications, but the powerful incisors are the most prominent feature. The eyes are small, yet larger than those of a mole and this, combined with their greyish-brown color, suggests that they took to a subterranean life at a later period than the moles.

POCKET gophers are well adapted to their mining life and are forever digging. Obstacles that resist the work of the powerful fore limbs are overcome by the strong teeth and only large stones make them deviate from a chosen course. As most of their tunnels are made in search of food, many of them are close to the surface and only large enough to allow the animals to move along freely. Old and much used ones may become larger and I have found some in which I could thrust my arm. The dens or nests are always deeper and are usually under the frost-line, which may be five feet below the surface in places. There are nests under two of my lilac bushes which are at least six feet down and I have come across tunnels at seven feet. It is difficult to drown the animals out, and my daughters and I have poured barrels of water into opened tunnels in the garden with very little effect. I think the net result was one annoyed half-grown animal for three barrels. They are continually pushing earth ahead of them and can quickly plug any passage and divert the water when it causes them discomfort.

As with human miners, the material excavated has to be thrown out on the surface and it is the little blind hillocks on the prairie that first indicate the presence of the animals. Later on their work will be noticed in the garden, for they are fond of carrots and other vegetables. They do not hibernate and

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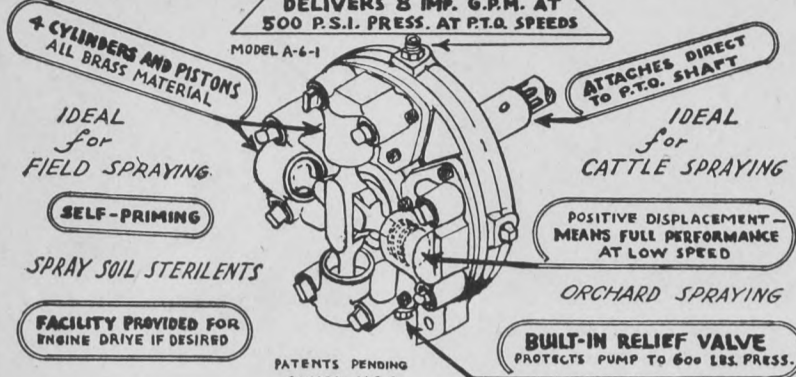
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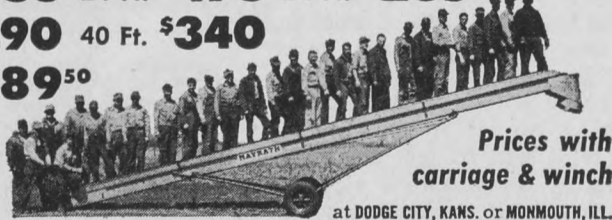
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WINNIPEG

CANADA

frequently get into cellars and root-houses, unless these have stone or cement walls. Although they seem to store food, they continue digging to some extent during the winter and push the earth out into the runways they have made under the snow and we often see long twisting sausage-like cylinders of earth on low-lying land or in ditches in early spring, testifying to the restless energy of the little miners.

Our northern pocket gophers seem to raise only one litter a year, and the five or six young ones are apparently born late in May in southern Saskatchewan. However, I have never dug down to a nest and can only base my opinion on observations made in our garden. They are definitely unsocial and bad tempered, and we rarely catch more than one adult in the same tunnel. The young ones seem to be driven out before they assume their

adult coats; but apparently they move only a few hundred yards and then commence burrowing for themselves, so that a scattered colony of these troublesome little rodents is quickly formed.

Pocket gophers are rarely seen on the surface and I am probably the only person who ever shot one. Whatever travelling they do is generally at night. I have found a few that had been killed by dogs, and others in the nests of great horned owls. Although they seem to shun the light, my youngest daughter and I once saw one peering from the side of a hillock through which it had just pushed some earth. Whether it was using its eyes or nose is impossible to say, but as the hill was in the middle of my lawn I shot the animal on its fourth or fifth appearance. V

Biggest Herd Of Galloways

Owner favors the breed because of hardiness and beef-making ability



Part of the 80-cow herd of Galloway cattle, belonging to A. S. Wallace, High River, Alta.

GALLOWAY cattle, says A. S. Wallace, High River, Alberta, who has developed the biggest herd of the breed in Canada, can fill a useful spot in any beef operation. Naturally polled, jet black in color and shaggy haired, with a dense winter undercoat, their hardiness is attested by the fact that a herd was kept at the Alaska Experiment Station at Sitka, Alaska, for years. Mr. Wallace suggests that the hardy, polled cows run into little calving trouble, even under severe winter weather, and their black color eliminates the burned and spoiled udders sometimes resulting when bright spring sunshine is reflected from the snow to light-skinned udders.

Carcasses from Galloway animals have been frequent winners at Britain's Smithfield Show, to prove their beef-making ability. While in 1936, an Alberta-bred Galloway cross-bred was grand champion at the Regina Winter Fair.

In spite of their merits, the breed has gained little headway in Canada, but Mr. Wallace has high hopes for their future. It is a logical place for Canada's leading herd too, for his father built up, on the same ranch, what has been called western Canada's

premier herd. Forty years ago, in fact, R. A. Wallace purchased his first blacks, a group of grades from the MacIntyre Ranch. In 1917, 40 pure-breds, bought in Kansas, formed the breeding herd which increased in size until 128 head were finally sold at the dispersal in 1927.

In 1937 the younger Wallace began again to build a Galloway herd, and now runs over 80 breeding cows on the seven quarters which make up his Spitzie ranch. With a good demand for the bulls now, both among the limited number of breeders and ranchers wanting to cross them on their cow herds, he attempts to distribute them widely. As he sees it, the future of the breed, and his own success with it, depends on the establishment of more breeders.

His own cattle are well able to rustle on the native grass or the crested wheatgrass which grows on all but 70 acres of the ranch. He throws some hay in the shelter of the coulee if the weather turns so severe they cannot graze out. The 70 acres grow oats for an additional bank of feed. Galloway cattle are easy doers, says Mr. Wallace, who is confident they will prove themselves to new breeders, once they get them home.—D.R.B. V

The Country Boy and Girl



IN your walks throughout our prairie land you may have come across wide, deep holes in which some water may remain while all the surrounding ground is dry. Old-timers will tell you that these hollows were buffalo wallows where a century ago buffalo rolled in the dirt to ease the itching of their hides and rub off insects which plagued them. You may have noticed,

too, very deep rutted trails which were used by herds of buffalo for years as they wandered from one pasture to another, or went down to drink at a river.

The millions of buffalo that left these marks on our prairies and once roamed North America have vanished from our land. Hunters killed them in such numbers that finally only a few were left and these are now protected within park enclosures. Because the buffalo was a very mild and fearless animal it didn't realize that men with guns were dangerous and so did not run from danger.

The buffalo supplied the Indians of the plains with their needs—food, clothing, homes and tools. They followed the wandering herds of buffalo to be near their food supply. When the buffalo disappeared the Indians were left starving.

The powerful buffalo is the provincial emblem of Manitoba. It recalls to us the days of wandering Indian tribes and early pioneers. One of the most interesting films telling the story of the buffalo is the Walt Disney film "Vanishing Prairie." Every boy and girl should see this nature film for the story of our prairie land is wonderfully told for us to appreciate and enjoy.

Ann Sankey

White and Green

by Mary Grannan

WILLIE WHITE was a little rabbit, gay of heart and swift of foot. Willie had had to fend for himself, almost from the day he was born. His mother's appetite for red cabbage had brought her an untimely end. She had been captured in Mr. Penny's garden. From that day, Willie's life had been one of escapes and foraging. He had done very well for himself too, until the day that Greedy Fox moved into the woodlands.

Willie soon learned that Greedy was one to be reckoned with. Greedy was sly and clever and for the first time in his life, Willie White was worried. He took his troubles to his good friend, the crow. If he expected consolation from Mr. Crow, he was disappointed.

"You've a right to be worried," said the great black bird, and wisely. "It doesn't matter how fast you can run, or how sharp eyed you are, Greedy will outwit you some day. If I were you, Willie, I'd leave the woodland. I'd find some place to live, where I could enjoy life, and not always be on the lookout."

Willie shook his white head sadly. "But I don't know such a place, Mr. Crow. The only place I know is this woodland."

"How about the zoo?" asked the crow.

The word was new to Willie. He did not understand. Mr. Crow told Willie about zoos, and how the animals were taken care of, and fed well. "You'd never have to forage again, Willie," he said.

"I'll go there," said Willie. "Where is it?"

"It's on the edge of the town," said Mr. Crow, "but there's one thing I should tell you about the zoo, before you go. You'll be locked up. You won't have your freedom to hop about the way you do now. You'll be in a cage."

Willie's face fell. Willie, who had roamed about at his pleasure, all of his short life, did not like the idea of confinement. "It would be like a prison," he said.

"Yes," agreed the crow, "but a very fine prison. You'd be treated well."

Willie White shook his white head. "I wouldn't like it," he said. "Is there any other place I could live, and be safe, happy and free, Mr. Crow?"

The crow flew to the top of the big pine tree. He seemed to think better when he was sitting on top of a tall tree. Willie waited, hopefully, for his return. In a matter of minutes, Mr. Crow returned to earth. He nodded his head. "I've thought of something," he said, "a boy."

Again the little rabbit was puzzled. "A boy is a very nice thing," said the crow. "A boy likes a rabbit. He will feed you well. He will make a good home for you, and he will play with you. You'll have fun with a boy."

"I shall live with a boy," said Willie. "Where shall I find one?"

This was the problem. Where would Willie find a little boy, who wanted a rabbit?

A little boy who wanted a rabbit lived on the corner of Maple and Daffodil streets, and his name was Peter Green. He wanted a rabbit so much, that he sang about it. And this was his song:

"I hope some day that I'll get
A small rabbit for a pet.
He will be as white as snow,
He will like me, that I know.
I will be both good and kind
To the rabbit, who is mine."

Peter's mother heard the song, and called the little boy to her. "You want a rabbit very much, don't you Peter?"

"Yes. Mum," said Peter, "and if I had a little white rabbit, I'd take care of him, and feed him, and he'd be no bother to you at all."

"With a promise like that," laughed Mrs. Green, "I think it's safe enough

to let you have a rabbit. I'll give you the money, and you can go down to the market and buy one."

While Peter Green was on his way to the market, Willie White was on his way to town. Mr. Crow had discovered that boys went to the market to buy rabbits. He suggested that Willie White go there. The road was long and dusty, and several times Willie was splashed by passing cars. The recent rains had left puddles in the hollows of the road. But undaunted, Willie trudged onward. Willie was travelling with purpose. He was searching for a boy.

The boy, who was to be his boy, was sitting on the curb, just outside the market place. He had gone eagerly to buy a rabbit, but there were no rabbits for sale. As he sat there, he saw a mud-caked little creature, with sagging ears and dragging feet, coming toward him. "Hello, little boy," said Willie White.

"Hello, you funny little thing," said Peter.

"I'm not a funny little thing," said Willie wearily. "I'm a tired little white rabbit, and I've come a long way looking for a boy."

Peter reached out and touched Willie. A piece of caked mud fell from Willie's coat. Peter cried out in delight. "You are a white rabbit, and you've found your boy. I'm Peter Green."

"I'm Willie White," said Willie.

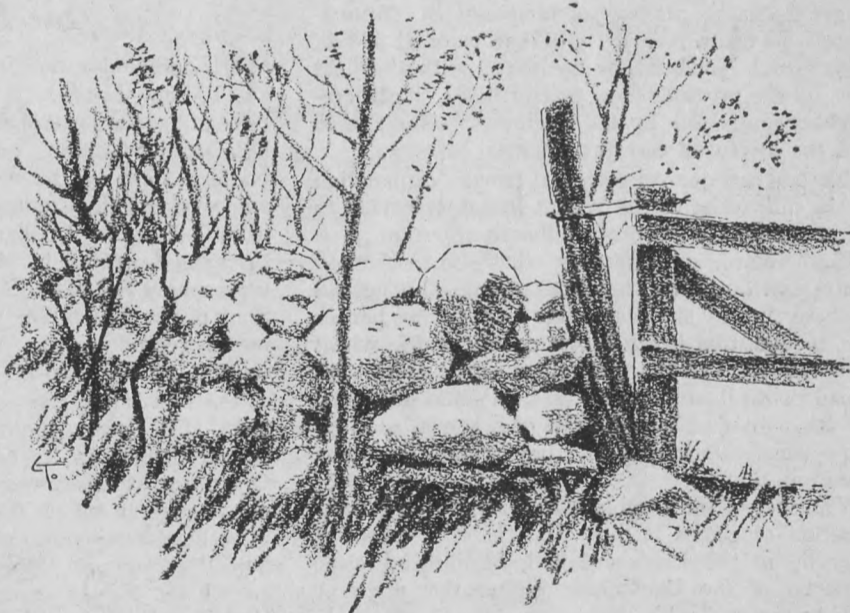
Gathering the dusty Willie into his arms, Peter ran home. His mother cried out in dismay. "Peter," she said, "you didn't buy that filthy little creature, did you?"

"No, Mum, I didn't buy him. I found him. I'm going to spend my money on a rabbit hutch. Please may I have some soap flakes, because when this little rabbit has a bath, he'll be as white as snow."

The next day, Willie White and Peter Green went in search of a black crow. They wanted to thank him for bringing them together.

Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 40 in series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



THOSE old stone fences around the fields and the stone piles here and there—what a total of accumulated labor they represent! Fortunately for agriculture, these stony districts are the exception rather than the rule.

But if picking these stones made the farmer groan, there are many for whom the stone piles he built are a delight. Overgrown as they soon are with thickets of saskatoon, choke-cherry, willow and poplar, they offer to the small four-foots of field and meadow an impregnable refuge safe from attack by dog, fox or coyote; from hawk, owl and eagle. How many times, too, have I crept up behind a stone pile to spy on fox or coyote mousing in the fields.

There are a'lways picture possibilities around these old stone heaps. You have only to sit down to sketch the stone pile itself, and before long one or another of its furry inhabitants will come out to spy on you.

The sketch you make might be in the nature of the one shown here and can be as slight or elaborate as you have time for. I would probably begin with the gate post, judging the angle it makes with the horizon and its thickness in proportion to its length. Then the gate—and remember, each shape before you put it down, must be measured with your eye and compared with the dimensions of the post which is your standard for comparison.

For instance, you might say to yourself, "This poplar tree to the left is about as far from the top of the tall post (on a horizontal line) as half the post's length. So, you put a mark there and then observe that the poplar's trunk is not vertical, but leans to the right. Indicate this. Now measure and compare the shapes of the stones between them and on both sides and in a few minutes more, the basic shapes are drawn, and you can proceed with detail.

THE *Country* GUIDE

with which is incorporated

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VOL. LXXIV WINNIPEG, JUNE, 1955 No. 6

1953-54 Final Wheat Price

THE Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, found it more difficult than usual to uphold his unofficial title of optimist-in-chief at Ottawa, when he announced the final payment for wheat of the 1953-54 pool, on May 16. Basis No. 1 Northern, in store Fort William or Vancouver, the final payment was 6.262 cents per bushel, and the average payment on the 398,031,635.6 bushels delivered by producers was 6.384 cents per bushel. Mr. Howe made the announcement sound reasonable under the circumstances, but he could not be very optimistic about it. He said that the 1953-54 pool represented the most difficult marketing operation in the postwar history of the Wheat Board.

The Board, in fact, began the 1953-54 year with the harvest of the third bumper wheat crop in succession. Also, despite very heavy exports in 1952-53, it was necessary to take 148.7 million bushels from the previous pool into the 1953-54 pool on January 30, 1954. World demand dropped despite a very aggressive sales campaign by the Wheat Board, until only 255 million bushels were exported during the crop year, a decline of 130 million bushels from 1952-53 exports. Prices declined also, No. 1 Northern averaging only \$1.73, as compared with \$1.90 during the previous crop year. Finally, because markets were slower and so much wheat had to be carried longer, the average carrying charge per bushel increased by approximately 8.5 cents. A final 1953-54 price of \$1.56426, basis No. 1 Northern, as compared with the final price of the previous crop year of \$1.81, was therefore accounted for by the decline in selling price and the increased carrying charges.

No one can quarrel with Mr. Howe's explanation of the difficulties of the Wheat Board, but what to do about it is an entirely different question. It is difficult to see, in all fairness, what else the United States can do under the circumstances but get rid of its surplus by any reasonable means. The chances are, indeed, that if Mr. Howe or any prairie wheat producer were in the position of Uncle Sam, with a bad political situation on his hands and unlimited wealth with which to get out of a jam created by a previous administration, they would do much the same thing.

The seat of the trouble is to be found in a combination of many factors. To whatever extent it may lie in the long-continued, high, fixed price supports of the Democratic regime, we are now also confronted with the results of a combination of weather, technological advances in agriculture, and a decline in the importing needs of countries which have regained a larger measure of self-sufficiency during the postwar decade. Surpluses are a chronic affliction of agriculture, and they arise largely because so much can happen that is unpredictable. Difficult as the present situation is, and disappointing as prices are bound to be under such circumstances, it is little short of amazing that a wheat surplus did not develop earlier in the postwar period than it did. V

Security and Controls

A LITTLE over two weeks ago we were down at Hutchinson, Kansas, to attend the annual field day of the Kansas Wheat Improvement Association. On the way down, as we talked with people we met, and at the State College of Agriculture, at Manhattan, where we talked with an associate professor of agricultural economics, originally from southern Alberta, as well as during the field day program (see page 9), the problem of controls, as an inevitable feature of high fixed farm price supports, was much in evidence.

Acreage allotments are the order of the day in every wheat area of the Union. Acreage has been arbitrarily cut now for two years in succession, and controlled acreage is almost a certainty for 1956. It affects the small, as well as the large farmer, and the producer of wheat in strongest demand for export, as well as the inferior types and varieties, for which the demand is least. The most efficient and the least efficient farmers have their acreages reduced by law in equal proportion, and the control is administered locally, by counties. The farmer's acreage is measured after seeding. If he has estimated rather than measured his seeded acreage and is an acre or two over, he receives a sharp letter instructing him to get rid of the excess if he wants to enjoy full price support for any of his crop.

Of course the law must be administered fairly. Uncle Sam will have a billion bushels of wheat to carry over, beginning July 1, and acreage reduction has been a necessity. Nevertheless, to subject the long-time grower of hard spring wheat or hard red winter wheat to the same measure of acreage reduction as the "suitcase" farmer, who has ripped up large acreages of submarginal land during the last decade, to make a killing from high fixed price supports for wheat, certainly is not good for farmers, their industry, or the government.

Canadian farmers do not want controls of any kind, if they can be avoided. They do have some controls, and they need some price supports. What supports they are getting could stand some improvement, but not necessarily in the direction of raising all supports to higher levels. Occasionally, in Canada, we have heard the idea expressed that farm products should be supported at 100 per cent of parity. No government is ever likely to be so foolish. Experience on this continent with wheat since 1952 should deter even the most foolhardy cabinet minister. V

Our Railway

THE other day the postman brought us a small 16-page booklet. It carries the title that we have put at the head of this article, and was written by Donald Gordon, president of the Canadian National Railways, for the 100,000 men and women who work for the Company, and who received 58.5 cents out of every dollar of operating revenue the Company received in 1954. The booklet presents very simply the basic information about the operations of the C.N.R. for the year, with a few comments reproduced in Mr. Gordon's own handwriting, for the sake of emphasis.

The fact is that last year was not a good year for the C.N.R. Its revenue from operations showed the largest decline in its history—almost \$56 million. Operating expenses were down substantially, but not enough to match the drop in revenue. Consequently, net revenue, instead of being \$31.2 million, the amount necessary to provide interest on all the money invested in the Company by Canadians when they purchased C.N.R. bonds, was only enough to provide \$2.4 million for interest. The balance, \$28.7 million, must be paid; and since all of the Canadian people own the C.N.R., the government must find the money.

Mr. Gordon's chief difficulty, and that of many thousands of prairie farmers, originates for the most part, from the same cause. Mr. Gordon cannot find enough money to pay the bondholders their interest, without going to the government. The farmer is guaranteed an initial payment for his wheat, oats and barley before they are harvested, and the government undertakes to see that they are marketed to the best advantage afterward, by assuming the responsibility for Canadian Wheat Board policy. Both, following last year's operations, have found it impossible to meet their obligations to people who have lent them money.

In Mr. Gordon's business, 78.5 cents of every dollar received comes from freight. For tens of thousands of western farmers, 78.5 cents of every dollar they receive easily comes from the grain they produce. Mr. Gordon says that the principal decrease in freight was in grain traffic, because "overseas shipments of Canadian grain dropped off." The farmers recently received a 6.262-cent

final payment for 1953 wheat, instead of about 15 cents, for much the same reason. Part of Mr. Gordon's decrease arose from the fact that farmers bought fewer agricultural implements and cars, and built fewer buildings. A part of the farmer's trouble was due to the fact that his crop was rusted and brought him either nothing at all, or a much reduced total initial payment. This also is lost future business for both railway companies.

Mr. Gordon must conduct his business in the face of rigorous controls, not only those of a specific nature, imposed by the Board of Transport Commissioners, but also those of a more general nature, which rest in the authority of parliament. The grain farmer, likewise, is subject to the specific controls imposed by the Wheat Board, as well as the unpredictable and more hazardous controls imposed by nature.

And so it goes. Civilized nations retain a liking for liberty but recognize the obligations of increasing social and political responsibility. No one today, unless he is a freak, can act independently of other people; and even then is dependent on others for their tolerance. V

Fruit Cocktails Again

APPARENTLY the saga of the fruit cocktails, or tinned mixed fruits, or canned fruit salads, is not yet ended. Readers will no doubt remember that not so long ago, the Tariff Board at Ottawa was called on to make a momentous decision. It had to decide whether mixtures of fruits cooked in a syrup and wrapped up in tin cans were really peaches after all. If they were, it would open up a very convenient way to raise the duty on the mixed fruit by 150 per cent. No, said the Tariff Board, mixed fruit by any other name tastes like mixed fruit.

Thus reproved, the representatives of Mr. McCann, the Minister of National Revenue, retired abashed: not, however, before the lawyers representing the Minister of Justice, Mr. Garson, illustrated the difference between law and justice. They argued that the tinned products should be called neither mixed fruits nor peaches, but preserves. The Tariff Board was not impressed. They preferred justice. Absurdity, however, had not yet run its course. Applications were made for leave to appeal, first to the Exchequer Court, and when leave was refused there, to the Supreme Court of Canada, where the learned justices likewise refused to listen.

Why bring this up again now? The reason is that, absurdity and ineptitude having been routed, honesty may take over. The government is not certain. It is now reported—first by the Winnipeg Free Press—that after sounding out the representatives of other countries involved, Canada may make an effort to have the duty on mixed fruits raised legally by Parliament. Before this can be done, however, other signatories to the Geneva Agreement on Tariffs and Trade must agree, since this particular tariff item is "bound" under GATT, and cannot be altered so as to affect the products of other GATT countries, without their consent.

Most of the products involved are imported from the United States, which has been the object of much criticism from Canada because of her tariff and quota policy, and because of the special waiver she received at the recent GATT Conference. The government has not admitted that such approaches are being, or will be made, because, it is argued, the GATT negotiations are always conducted in secret. It may be that the move now suggested is part and parcel of a system of hard bargaining inevitable in such dealings. If so, we hope that they are more honest and aboveboard than the handling of the mixed fruits item so far would appear to guarantee. Having tried a cellar window entrance, the government will be forced to gain access to its 150 per cent increase in revenues from this source, through the front door. Mr. Harris, the Minister of Finance, will make any such approach, and we hope that, as he thinks about the Canadian fruit grower, who appears to have a real grievance, and also about our neighbors, who have been criticized severely for doing forthrightly, what Mr. McCann attempted to do otherwise, he will blush slightly. V

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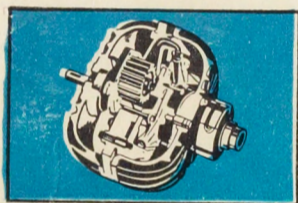


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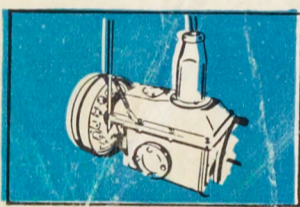
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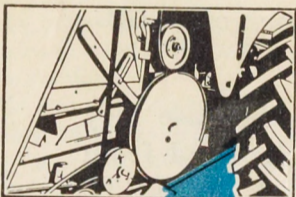
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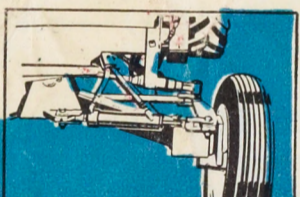
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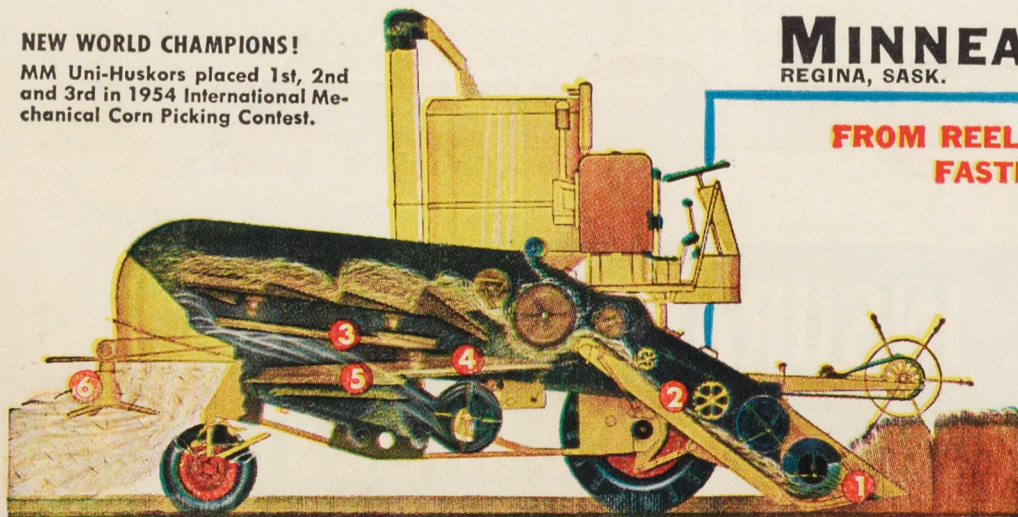
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